

**SIOUXLAND REGIONAL STATEMENT
ON THE RECENT INCREASE IN POSITIVE CASES OF COVID-19 IN SIOUXLAND**

Considering the dramatic increases in the number of positive cases of COVID-19 in Woodbury County, IA, Dakota County, NE, and Union County, SD in the past week, we are calling on all public health organizations to increase the level of transparency in reporting the information to our community.

We are asking the Siouxland District Health, Dakota County Health Department, the Iowa Department of Public Health, the Nebraska Department of Health and Human Services, and the South Dakota Department of Health to provide more comprehensive reporting data to include the specific location of where any outbreak or spread has occurred.

Further, we are asking all businesses in our various communities to take responsibility for any outbreak or spread of COVID-19 in their facilities. This includes providing accurate information to employees and the public about any confirmed cases in their facilities and the steps they are taking to protect their employees. This information should be shared in a response plan to reduce the spread of the disease in their facilities and our community. If these steps cannot be taken, we would ask the business to close until such time a response plan is in place.

Our priority is the health and safety of our citizens. To that end, we urge Governor Reynolds, Governor Ricketts, and Governor Noem to act cautiously in lifting current restrictions across the three-state region too soon. We would also urge citizens to remember that, even as things are lifted, we need to be vigilant and continue to follow all guidelines to prevent the spread of COVID-19.

We would like to commend our businesses and citizens who continue to do what they can to reduce the spread of COVID-19 in our community. We appreciate the sacrifices that have been made to protect our employees and residents. We would ask that all businesses and public organizations work together to keep our community better informed and that we work together to fight this pandemic.

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