



To Protect, Promote and Prioritize the Health of Our Entire
Community

For Immediate Release: 10/21/2020

New Directed Health Measures Begin Today

The State of Nebraska has passed down some changes regarding capacity at bars and restaurants due to the COVID-19 pandemic. The Douglas County Health Department (DCHD) wants to clarify how those changes may impact you starting today, October 21.

Bars and restaurants can continue to operate at full capacity under the new Directed Health Measures (DHMs). However, customers must remain seated unless ordering, playing a game, or going to the restroom.

Other indoor gatherings are now limited to 50% instead of 75% of a venue's capacity. Anyone who has applied for an event permit needs only to observe the updated regulations. There is no need for a new application.

DCHD would also like to remind you that anyone, even close acquaintances, has the potential to spread COVID-19 to you. Many recent cases have been traced to informal gatherings at home. Stay vigilant, even in private settings.

On Wednesday, October 21, DCHD reported 130 new cases of COVID-19 that were received over the past day, ending at midnight. This makes 20,453 total cases in Douglas County since the outbreak began in March.

The Health Department has not received any new death certificates during the past day related to COVID-19. The number of deaths in the county connected to the pandemic remains at 215. DCHD has confirmed 14,454 county residents have recovered from the illness.

As of this morning, metro area hospitals had 182 medical and surgical beds available for an 87% occupancy rate with 65 Intensive Care Unit (ICU) beds available for an 81% occupancy rate. There were 183 individuals hospitalized who have been diagnosed with COVID 19 and 34 more persons of interest (generally waiting for test results). Twelve individuals who were confirmed or suspected of having COVID-19 were on ventilators.

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