



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

For Immediate Release: 10/15/2020

DCHD Needs You to Step Up

People are starting to move indoors as the weather cools, and the Douglas County Health Department (DCHD) is concerned that some of these gatherings can contribute to an increase of COVID-19 cases in our community.

A couple pieces of guidance to follow are that outdoor activities generally are safer than indoor activities and smaller gatherings are always safer than large groups.

When it's possible you should avoid mixing households to avoid sharing the disease. Remember to keep six feet of distance and wear masks when you are in public for indoor and outdoor activities.

DCHD knows mask wearing can help, and we are asking the public to step up and take the personal responsibility of protecting your friends and neighbors. What you do can make a difference in fighting COVID-19.

On Thursday, October 15, the Douglas County Health Department (DCHD) reported 215 new cases of COVID-19 that were received over the past day, ending at midnight today. This makes 18,912 total cases in Douglas County since the outbreak began in March.

During the past 14 days there have been 110 confirmed COVID-19 cases in K-12 schools, including 65 staff and 45 students, with 212 people in quarantine and 532 who are self-monitored.

The Health Department has not received any new death certificates since the previous day related to COVID-19. The number of deaths in the county connected to the pandemic remains at 209. DCHD has confirmed 13,996 county residents have recovered from the illness.

As of this morning, metro area hospitals had 207 medical and surgical beds available for an 85% occupancy rate with 38 Intensive Care Unit (ICU) beds available for an 88% occupancy rate. There were 140 individuals hospitalized who have been diagnosed with COVID 19 and 22 more persons of interest (generally waiting for test results). Twelve individuals who were confirmed or suspected of having COVID-19 were on ventilators.

NOTE: If there are capacity issues in the metro or anywhere in Nebraska and southwest Iowa, hospitals can call the state COVID transfer line operated by CHI Health. CHI Health will work with hospitals to transfer patients to the closest hospital with the level of care they need. The state COVID line was set up in April.

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