

Our Vision: Healthy People in Healthy Communities
Adams, Clay, Nuckolls and Webster Counties

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Six new COVID-19 cases, new SHDHD total is 132

Hastings, Neb – Six new lab-confirmed cases of COVID-19 were reported to the South Heartland District today. This brings the total number of cases in the 4-county health district to 132, including 124 in Adams County, five (5) in Clay County, three (3) in Webster County, and zero (0) in Nuckolls County.

Clay County:

- 1 female in her 50s

Adams County:

- 2 females (2 in their 40s)
- 3 males (1 in his 30s, 1 in his 40s, 1 in his 80s)

South Heartland District Health Department (SHDHD) continues to conduct contact investigations for positive individuals who live in South Heartland counties. As a reminder, persons who test negative on a given day are not protected from COVID-19 exposure the following days, so continued practice of social distancing and prevention is necessary.

“We are encouraging everyone to continue to stay home as much as possible, to limit non-essential outings, and to practice social distancing and prevention everywhere they need to be,” said SHDHD executive director Michele Bever. “This is another important reason we recommend people wear masks at work or in public places where it is difficult to socially distance from others.”

Bever said people should wear cloth masks when they visit grocery stores, pharmacies, doctor’s offices, convenience stores, farm and garden stores, home improvement stores, and any other location where it might be difficult to stay 6 feet apart from other people.

“In addition, we recommend that employees wear masks at worksites like these, where there could be frequent or close interaction with customers,” Bever said. “If employers have questions about providing masks for their employees, they may contact the health department or their county emergency manager for assistance.”

More widespread testing is critical for reducing the spread of COVID-19 disease. South Heartland was notified Friday that the Nebraska Department of Health and Human Services (DHHS) is providing a National Guard COVID testing team as a resource to the health district again on April 27-28.

This will be a limited testing event (not open to the general public) because there will be a limited number of tests available. The health department is planning to focus on local critical infrastructure sectors, such as healthcare and long term care workers, first responders, and industry/worksites, as well as vulnerable/at risk populations.

SHDHD is encouraging South Heartland residents to participate in the Governor’s TestNebraska program, an initiative to increase the rate of COVID-19 testing so Nebraskans can have better access to testing and help

curb the spread of COVID-19. The first step is to go to the testnebraska.com website to complete a health assessment to determine your current risk for COVID-19.

South Heartland District case counts by county are updated daily on SHDHD's COVID webpage: <https://southheartlandhealth.org/public-health-data/corona-virus.html>. The Nebraska Department of Health and Human Services (DHHS) provides daily updates to Nebraska's coronavirus COVID-19 cases on their Data Dashboard at <http://dhhs.ne.gov/Pages/Coronavirus>.

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