**TO:** All Nemaha County Hospital Team Members

**FROM:** Marty Fattig

**DATE:** April 21, 2020

**RE:** Daily COVID-19 Update

Good morning and thanks for reading this update. The number of cases in Nebraska continues to rise at a rate that shows we have not yet reached our peak, which confirms the need to continue to practice social distancing. The model developed by the University of Washington shows that cases in Nebraska will peak around May 1st.

It is my belief that as healthcare workers we should be setting the example of how to behave in these difficult times. We should all be practicing proper social distancing and we should be wearing our facemasks when we are out in public. If the community sees us out without masks, they are led to believe that it must not be important for them to wear a mask. Thanks for being the proper example for our community.

You are probably hearing that the governor is advocating that hospitals can start providing elective surgery after May 4th, if they meet certain criteria. We will decide if we are going to follow the governor’s advice based on what is happening in our area in early May. If things remain as they are right now, we will probably follow suit. We believe that it is important that we do what is best for our community and patients.

As of 9:00 this morning there were 2,499,723 cases in the world. Yesterday there were 2,420,439 cases. There have been 171,718 deaths. Yesterday there had been 166,205 deaths.

In the United States there are now 788,110 positive cases, 42,364 deaths and 4,026,572 people that have been tested. Yesterday there were 759,786 cases, 40,683 deaths and 3,882,002 people that had been tested. 253,311 of the US cases are in New York. Yesterday there were 248,417 cases there.

In Nebraska there are now 1,648 cases and 33 deaths. Yesterday there had been 1,474 positive cases and 28 deaths. 16,372 people have been tested in the state. Yesterday 15,680 people had been tested. The deaths have occurred in Douglas, Hall, Buffalo, Madison, Custer, Gage, Lancaster and Lincoln counties with several deaths still unassigned to a county. We have had one confirmed case in Nemaha County, two in Johnson County and one in Otoe County with no community spread. 291 of the Nebraska cases are in Douglas County. There has now been 531 confirmed cases in Hall County, which is the Grand Island area and 100 cases in Adams County, which is the Hastings area. There are more cases in Hall County than in Douglas County with much less population. There are also 172 cases in Dawson County. I would not recommend travel to this area.

Once again, I want to remind you that the most important thing that you can to do help stop the spread of COVID-19 and protect your family and co-workers is to stay home when not at work and wash your hands. Remember our travel restrictions and practice social distancing in all situations. Wear a cloth mask when you must be out in public.

Thanks for all you do every day!