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

**FROM:** Marty Fattig

**DATE:** April 24, 2020

**RE:** Daily COVID-19 Update

Good morning and thanks for reading this update. As the capacity for testing in the state increases, we are bound to see an increase in the number of positive cases, as shown by the number of new cases identified since yesterday. I don’t think that this is cause for alarm. I think that those cases were here already, we are just testing more people so more positive cases are confirmed. The model developed by the University of Washington shows that cases in Nebraska will peak around May 9th.

As I watch the news I see some states relaxing their restrictions while the number of cases continues to rise. I think this is dangerous and hope that Nebraska does not follow this path. Social distancing is the primary thing we can do to slow the spread of this virus.

Today the National Guard is doing test collecting in Tecumseh. They are testing persons identified by either healthcare providers or the public health department as being high risk. It will be interesting to see how many positive tests come out of that test collection.

As of 9:00 this morning there were 2,732,117 cases in the world. Yesterday there were 2,649,680 cases. There have been 192,019 deaths. Yesterday there had been 184,643 deaths.

In the United States there are now 869,172 positive cases, 49,963 deaths and 4,692,797 people that have been tested. Yesterday there were 842,624 cases, 46,785 deaths and 4,482,434 people that had been tested. 263,460 of the US cases are in New York. Yesterday there were 263,754 cases there. I know that a drop in cases doesn’t make sense but that is what my data source shows.

In Nebraska there are now 2,202 cases and 47 deaths. Yesterday there had been 1,813 positive cases and 38 deaths. That makes 389 new confirmed cases identified since yesterday. 18,612 people have been tested in the state. Yesterday 17,360 people had been tested. The deaths have occurred in Douglas, Hall, Buffalo, Madison, Custer, Gage, Lancaster, Hamilton 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. 327 of the Nebraska cases are in Douglas County. There has now been 647 confirmed cases in Hall County, which is the Grand Island area and 111 cases in Adams County, which is the Hastings area. There are also 256 cases in Dawson County and 246 cases in Dakota County, which in the far northeast corner of the state. Pray for our friends working in hospitals in these areas!

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!