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

**FROM:** Marty Fattig

**DATE:** April 29, 2020

**RE:** Daily COVID-19 Update

Good morning and thanks for reading this update. Careful consideration has been given to the opening of our outpatient services to include elective surgeries.  This decision is based on our desire to provide needed services to our community and our desire to provide it as safely as possible.   With no clear and convincing scientific date not to open, we have decided to open outpatient services to include elective surgeries effective May 4th, 2020.  We will enforce wearing of masks and social distancing and all outpatients will be escorted throughout the hospital at all times. All current visitor and staff restrictions remain in effect.  If you have questions or concerns, please visit with our supervisor or a member of the leadership team.

Governor Ricketts is still asking people to enter their personal data in the secure website [www.testnebraska.com](http://www.testnebraska.com). This will help the state get a better grasp on who is at risk for contracting the virus and allow them to contact individuals that may qualify for testing. I have entered my data and it is relatively painless. Do as you see fit.

As of 9:00 this morning there were 3,132,363 cases in the world. Yesterday there were 3,060,152 cases. There have been 218,456 deaths. Yesterday there had been 212,083 deaths.

In the United States there are now 1,013,168 positive cases, 58,368 deaths and 5,795,728 people that have been tested. Yesterday there were 988,469 cases, 56,256 deaths and 5,593,495 people that had been tested. 295,106 of the US cases are in New York. Yesterday there were 291,996 cases there.

In Nebraska there are now 3,517 cases and 56 deaths. Yesterday there had been 3,358 positive cases and 56 deaths. That makes 159 new confirmed cases identified since yesterday. 23,605 people have been tested in the state. Yesterday 22,363 people had been tested. The deaths have occurred in Douglas, Hall, Buffalo, Madison, Custer, Gage, Lancaster, Hamilton, Seward, Washington and Lincoln counties with several deaths still unassigned to a county. We have had one confirmed case in Nemaha County, four in Johnson County and one in Otoe County with no community spread. 484 of the Nebraska cases are in Douglas County. There has now been 908 confirmed cases in Hall County, which is the Grand Island area and 143 cases in Adams County, which is the Hastings area. My data source does not show a change in the number of cases in Hall County since yesterday, which doesn’t seem right to me. There are also 410 cases in Dawson County and 608 cases in Dakota County, which in the far northeast corner of the state. There have been 297 people tested in the local public health district with six positive cases. Pray for our friends working in hospitals in these hotspots!

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!