

Central District Health Department and Community Members Provide COVID-19 Update

Central District Health Department (CDHD) will coordinate a news conference on Tuesday, October 6, 2020 at 11:00 am at the Hall County Grand Island Emergency Communication Center at 13th and North Road. The focus of the conference is to share several different perspectives on the COVID experience so far. Representatives of the medical community, the business world and the schools will speak on what they did to prepare for COVID in the late winter, how they adapted during the spring and summer, and steps they have taken to prepare for a fall surge.

“The number of cases is now beginning to increase rapidly both here in the Central District as well as across most of Nebraska,” states Teresa Anderson, CDHD Health Director. She adds, “Before COVID, none of us had experienced a pandemic. Today we all know a lot more than we did in January. Some things worked well during the surge and other actions needed improving. We have learned that masks do work to reduce the spread of COVID. We have always known hand washing and staying home when ill prevent the spread of viruses such as influenza.”

The business community in general has adopted some new rules for customers such as distancing in the store and the wearing of masks. They have also made adjustments to how and where employees work, interact and take their breaks.

Schools have developed and implemented plans that protect school employees and students from the rapid spread of COVID. Plans have been developed, adapted, and evaluated for effectiveness.

Within the healthcare system, much has been learned. Caring for COVID-positive hospitalized patients looks somewhat different now than it did in the spring. Staying healthy and seeking appropriate preventive healthcare has never been more important.

“Each speaker will tell their story followed by a Question and Answer period,” explains Anderson. “We have a lot to learn from each other as we head into a challenging fall.”