**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

**MARCH 29, 2020**

**CENTRAL DISTRICT ISSUES DIRECTIVE HEALTH MEASURES FOR HALL, HAMILTON AND MERRICK COUNTIES**

In an effort to reduce community transmission of the COVID-19 virus, Central District Health Department (CDHD) is issuing a Directed Health Measure (DHM) for all political subdivisions and the counties of Hall, Hamilton and Merrick.

“We want people to be clear on what is being required at this time,” states Anderson. The identification of three lab-confirmed cases of COVID-19 where there was no travel and no close contact as well as a death tells us that COVID-19 is in our district. We need to step up our efforts.”

The local DHM closely models the one the state issued earlier today. In general, the new measure includes:

Prohibiting gatherings of more than 10 people.

Alcohol sales are restricted to carry-out sales and delivery only to the extent permitted by law.

Food and beverage sales at restaurants, bars, taverns, private clubs, and dine-in establishments are restricted to drive-thru, carry out and delivery only.

Childcare shall be carried out in groups of 10 or fewer children: and to the extent possible, providers shall maintain the same 10 children on each group. If there is more than one group of children, each group shall be in separate rooms separated by either physical walls of sufficient airspace.

Refer to DHS 2020-1 (attached) for clarification and further information.

We continue to focus on reducing the number people ill with COVID-19 at any one time in order to reduce the demands on the healthcare system and to protect our healthcare providers, emergency responders, and critical infrastructure workers.

There is a statewide coronavirus (COVID-19) information line to help answer general questions and share the latest information and resources with Nebraskans to help keep them informed: (402) 552-6645; hours of operation are 8 a.m. to 8 p.m. CST, 7 days a week. CDHD’s Covid line (308)385-5175 will be operational 8 a.m. to 4 p.m. over the weekend.

CDHD encourages residents to stay informed by checking CDHD’s website at www.cdhd.ne.gov for local information and updates, as well as links to the state and national websites.