

For immediate release: Oct. 19, 2020 CORRECTED on Oct. 20, 2020

Central District Health Department sees New Directed Health Measure Going into effect Wednesday, October 21, 2020

Revised Directed Health Measures (DHM's) will go into effect this Wednesday. The changes aim to reduce the spread of COVID-19 and will be in effect until November 30th. During this time period, gatherings are restricted to 50% of an indoor facility's occupancy. Any one party at a gathering may not exceed 8 individuals and parties must maintain at least 6 feet separation. **Restaurants, bars, taverns, bowling alleys, private clubs, bottle clubs and gentlemen clubs remain at 100% occupancy. These establishments should provide an environment where patrons and staff maintain a distance of 6 feet from other persons whenever possible.** The 6-foot/8-person rules apply to weddings and funeral receptions as well. Elective surgeries and elective procedures at hospitals are allowed as long as 10% of staffed general beds and 10% of ICU staffed beds are maintained.

Masks in the school setting remain an important determinant of whether a school aged child will quarantine. If all persons in the classroom are masked appropriately and one person tests positive for COVID-19, that person will be isolated at home, while the rest of the class will likely self-monitor and remain in the school setting. CDHD continues to work with school administration on determining the need for quarantine based on the specific circumstances. "We know that right now our children are safest in school," states Anderson, adding "Most of our positive cases are a result of exposure in the community exposure and in the home. Schools continue to provide measures to keep children and staff from being exposed to COVID-19. This is becoming increasingly difficult as COVID surges again in the Central District."

Last week, CDHD saw a surge in cases and in positivity rates. "We know that 22% of people tested positive for COVID-19. We need that positivity rate to be around 5% rather than 22%. We are still moving in the wrong direction." Anderson submitted a request to the Governor's office last Friday requesting mandatory masking for the Central District. The request was declined. "To prevent COVID-19 spread, our community must recognize that masks are a critical part of our defense," explains Anderson. Additional effective measures include avoiding the three C's: **crowded places, close contacts** with persons other than household members, and **confined spaces** with poor ventilation (or avoiding the **three C's**). See attached infographic.

COVID-19 is spreading in Nebraska

Here's what you can do to stay safe and stop the spread:

Avoid the Three Cs

1. Crowded Places



Avoid gathering in any groups.

2. Close Contact



ALWAYS wear a mask and maintain 6-feet distance when you're with people you don't live with.

3. Confined Spaces



Avoid enclosed spaces with poor ventilation.

WHEN YOU ARE WITH OTHER PEOPLE

INCLUDING AT WORK, OUT-AND-ABOUT, AT SMALL AND LARGE GATHERINGS



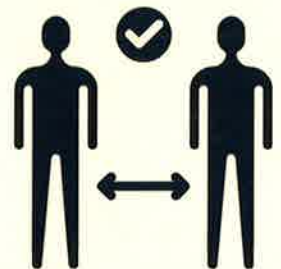
Avoid crowded places and limit time in enclosed spaces.



Wear a mask over your nose and mouth whenever you are with people you don't live with.



Wash your hands often.



Maintain at least 6 feet of distance from people you don't live with.

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