

Our Vision: Healthy People in Healthy Communities
Adams, Clay, Nuckolls and Webster Counties

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7 new cases in South Heartland; 164 tests conducted by National Guard

Hastings, Neb – Local health officials reported seven (7) new cases in South Heartland Health District, four in Adams County and three in Clay County. This brings the total number of cases in the 4-county health district to 156, including 144 in Adams County, nine (9) in Clay County, three (3) in Webster County, and zero (0) in Nuckolls County.

New cases in Clay County:

- 3 males (2 under 20, 1 in his 40s)

New cases in Adams County:

- 4 females (2 in their 20s, 1 in her 40s, 1 in her 60s)

South Heartland District Health Department (SHDHD) continues to conduct contact investigations for positive individuals who live in South Heartland counties.

The National Guard tested 164 people at a second day of limited testing in Hastings, bringing the two-day total to 300 tests. The testing was for health care workers, responders, critical infrastructure personnel and vulnerable or at risk individuals. The test results will provide an opportunity to determine the spread of the virus in some of our critical infrastructure sectors and will help us to understand level of the virus in the community in general.

The testing event was a resource shared with South Heartland District Health Department through the Nebraska Department of Health and Human Services.

SHDHD executive director Michele Bever is encouraging South Heartland residents to participate in the Governor’s TestNebraska program, an initiative to increase the rate of COVID-19 testing so Nebraskans can have better access to testing and help curb the spread of COVID-19. Bever said the first step is to go to the testnebraska.com website to complete a health assessment to determine your current risk for COVID-19.

Bever advises residents who are ill or have any symptoms consistent with coronavirus disease to stay home from work and isolate at home to avoid spreading the illness to others.

“Although COVID-19 disease can have serious symptoms, many people can be infected with mild to moderate symptoms or no symptoms at all,” Bever said. “This means it is common to be infected and not to know it, and to easily spread the disease to others unintentionally.”

For this reason, the health director recommends that employees wear masks at worksites where there could be frequent or close interaction with customers. She also suggests that everyone wear a cloth mask when visiting grocery stores, pharmacies, doctor’s offices, convenience stores, farm and garden stores, home improvement stores, and any other location where it might be difficult to stay 6 feet apart from other people.

South Heartland District case counts by county are updated daily on SHDHD’s COVID webpage: <https://southheartlandhealth.org/public-health-data/corona-virus.html>. The Nebraska Department of Health

and Human Services (DHHS) provides daily updates to Nebraska's coronavirus COVID-19 cases on their Data Dashboard at <http://dhhs.ne.gov/Pages/Coronavirus>.

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