

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

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2nd COVID-19 related death, 5 new cases in South Heartland

Hastings, Neb – Local health officials reported five (5) new cases and a second coronavirus disease (COVID-19) related death of a South Heartland resident, a man in his 60s from Adams County who had been hospitalized with underlying health conditions.

“It is with sadness that I am announcing the second COVID-19-related death in Adams County,” said Michele Bever, SHDHD executive director. “We send our condolences to the family in this difficult time.”

“This is a serious disease and we urge everyone to continue to practice social distancing and prevention everywhere they need to go,” she said.

Five new lab-confirmed cases of COVID-19 were also reported to the South Heartland District today, four in Adams County and one in Clay County. In addition, a previous case reported to South Heartland as residing in Clay County and hospitalized in another health district was determined to have been residing in Hall County and will not be included in SHDHD’s case count. This brings the total number of cases in the 4-county health district to 136, including 128 in Adams County, five (5) in Clay County, three (3) in Webster County, and zero (0) in Nuckolls County.

Clay County:

- 1 female in her 20s

Adams County:

- 3 females (2 in their 30s, 1 in her 40s)
- 1 male in his 60s

South Heartland District Health Department (SHDHD) continues to conduct contact investigations for positive individuals who live in South Heartland counties. As a reminder, persons who test negative on a given day are not protected from COVID-19 exposure the following days, so continued practice of social distancing and prevention is necessary.

Bever said that the health department is encouraging people to wear cloth masks when they visit 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.

“We also recommend that employees wear masks at worksites where there could be frequent or close interaction with customers,” Bever said. “If employers have questions about providing masks for their employees, they may contact the health department or their county emergency manager for assistance.”

SHDHD 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.

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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