



FOR IMMEDIATE

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RELEASE

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COVID-19 Information for Our Community

Over the past several weeks, Two Rivers Public Health Department and other local health departments in collaboration with the Nebraska Department of Health and Human Services, and the Centers of Disease Control, have been carefully monitoring the activity of COVID-19. Two Rivers Public Health Department has taken an active approach in preventing illness through effective monitoring of disease resulting in the isolation of those who have either been potentially exposed to or who have potential symptoms of COVID-19. At this time we want to report that we have 0 positive cases of COVID-19 in the Two Rivers Public Health Department district. Once this changes we will promptly send out a media release and post on our website and social media. We are continually learning more about this emerging disease and will continue to do so over time. It is important for us all to prepare now in order to protect the most vulnerable populations as Nebraska will likely see exponential growth in COVID-19 in the next several months. Adjustments in our daily activities may need to be made in our daily activities to prevent the spread of this contagious disease in the future. A vaccine for COVID-19 is not currently available and may be a significant time until developed, however there are measures we can take now.

As COVID-19 spreads worldwide, we must prepare for the possibility that large gatherings, school systems and/or childcare facilities may be impacted by cases either directly with students/children or staff contracting the virus, or indirectly through a closure. Cancelling large gatherings, or closing a school or daycare are current options available to help control the spread of the virus by limiting inter-personal contact. Please note that this is not yet a recommended measure, and we follow state and CDC guidelines as to when or if this may be necessary.

At this time there is no federal or state mandate for school, business, or daycare closures. Please refer to CDC guidance about large gatherings, school and childcare recommendations, and interim guidance for businesses to further inform your decision making process.

Additional steps in preparation **to be taking NOW** include the following:

- Make sure your emergency contact lists are up to date.
- Continue to follow information and advice from Two Rivers Public Health Department.
- Encourage staff and children to stay at home if sick.
- Ensure supplies are on hand to upgrade cleaning and disinfecting measures. Note that supply shortages are possible and anticipated in the event of a large-scale outbreak.
- For parents, plan for what you would do with your children if school were to be closed for a week or longer.
- For daycares, have discussions with parents now about what to expect if the daycare must be closed for a week or longer. Families must begin planning now for backup childcare arrangements

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Regularly washing hands and ‘basic’ hygiene measures (for example, covering your cough, not touching your face, and social distancing) continue to be the most effective measures to prevent the spread of viruses and other germs. Preparation now can aid in delaying the spread of the virus and can reduce the impact of the virus. Each individual family will need to consider taking the steps that are best suited in reducing the impact of COVID-19. We continue to prepare for the spread of COVID-19 in our community, while remaining hopeful it will not happen.

Sources of further information on non-pharmaceutical interventions for schools and daycare:

<https://www.cdc.gov/nonpharmaceutical-interventions/school/>

Sources of further information on non-pharmaceutical interventions for private households:

<https://www.cdc.gov/nonpharmaceutical-interventions/pdf/gr-pan-flu-ind-house.pdf>

For more information call Two Rivers Public Health Department at (888) 669-7154 or visit www.trphd.org.

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