



EAST-CENTRAL DISTRICT Health Department

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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[Columbus, NE] – East Central District Health Department (ECDHD) has identified 43 additional new cases of COVID-19 in its jurisdiction, bringing the total case number across the four-county area to 331. At this time, cases per county are:

- Boone: 2
- Colfax: 147
- Nance: 3
- Platte: 179

One of the newly identified cases involves a staff member from Clarkson Care and Rehabilitation Center, a long-term care facility in Clarkson. Families of Clarkson Care residents and staff have been notified of the situation, and the facility is working with ECDHD to closely monitor the situation. The second Boone County case is believed to be community spread; no clear transmission source has been identified.

The ECDHD four-county district is seeing a rapid rise in the number of COVID-19 cases; the doubling rate of confirmed cases is approximately three days. Some of these newly identified cases are community spread cases. Community spread means that some of the persons infected with the virus are not certain how or where they became infected. Once there is community spread in an area, persons should assume they could be infected with the virus anywhere in that area. For that reason, and despite the relaxation of Directed Health Measures scheduled for May 4th, ECDHD urges residents of its communities to continue to stay the course of social distancing by:

- Limiting non-essential errands. Shop alone, not with children or other household members.
- Wearing a face-covering whenever they leave their homes.
- Working from home if possible.
- Frequently washing their hands for a minimum of 20 seconds with soap and water, or if soap and water is not available, by using a hand sanitizer that is at least 60% alcohol.

- Keeping a minimum of 6 ft. distance between persons whenever possible.

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