

Nebraska State and Legislative Actions:

Governor Update

Gov. Ricketts began his Thursday press briefing by discussing local health departments, and how they are in control regarding details provided when reporting new cases—including where a person contracted coronavirus. Gov. Ricketts said that local districts need to verify all workplaces, as sometimes people do not tell the truth about their place of employment. These announcements came after [news](#) late this morning that the Elkhorn Logan Valley Public Health Department would no longer report case numbers stemming from a Tyson plant in Madison.

Ricketts also announced that a problem regarding the Test Nebraska program has been resolved. A Omaha doctor told the [Omaha World Herald](#) that she was denied a test, even though she is a health care worker. Now the online assessment has a feature that identifies if you are a health care worker and need to be tested. Ricketts also announced a new Test Nebraska testing site would be opening in Lincoln. Yesterday, the program administered 526 tests at its Grand Island and Omaha locations.

Education

Nebraska Education Commissioner Matt Blomstedt joined Gov. Ricketts to provide an update on schools. Blomstedt announced a new effort entitled 'Launch Nebraska.' The website of Launch Nebraska will include help for teachers, mostly centered on resources for teaching online. If you'd like to visit the site for more information, visit [here](#).

Q&A

Q: Can you give any updates regarding unemployment claims?

A: John Albin: 81% of unemployment claims filed on or after March 8 have been paid. The Nebraska Department of Labor has paid out \$75.2 million in regular unemployment, as well as \$9.6 in pandemic unemployment assistance. NDOL has processed 94,000 claims since March 8.

Q: There are reports that people are not receiving test results as quickly as advertised through Test Nebraska, do you have any insight?

A: Ricketts: This is a new process and I ask for people's patience on this. One third of the people who have gotten tests through Test Nebraska have received their results.

Q: Should the state have done more to help protect meatpacking workers?

A: Ricketts: Yes, if I'd known the things I know now a couple months ago—that's called experience. What we went through in Grand Island has better prepared us to address the outbreak in Lexington.

Federal:

White House

The Trump administration is considering taking measures of its own regarding boosting the economy. The considerations reported: an additional delay for Tax Day, as late as September 15, and a moratorium on new federal regulations. The moratorium would protect businesses from lawsuits if employees were to get sick on the job. However, any economic proposals being considered will not move forward until states reopen and needs are identified. To read more on the potential proposals, visit [here](#).

