For Immediate Release: May 12, 2020   **Contact:** Phil Rooney: (402) 444-6427
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Face Masks Really are a Good Idea

There's a reason cloth face masks are recommended to help stop the spread of COVID-19. They work and they are generally not terribly expensive.

But they only work when you wear one, as the Douglas County Health Department (DCHD) is reminding everyone.

"Cloth face masks are easy to wear and you can clean and re-use them," Health Director Dr. Adi Pour said. "They keep you from spreading the disease. If everyone wears a mask, we can really slow the spread of COVID-19."

On Tuesday, May 12, the Health Department reported 80 new cases of COVID-19 in the county.

DCHD is working on developing further data from these newest cases. That brings the total number of COVID-19 cases reported here to 1,715 since the start of the outbreak. Douglas County saw a 28.5 percent positive results on tests reported Monday to the Health Department.

As of Monday night, local hospitals reported 532 medical surge beds were available and 108 patients were hospitalized with COVID-19. Of the 373 ventilators available to area hospitals, 130 were in use, including 38 for confirmed COVID-19 patients. DCHD has confirmed 266 county residents have recovered from the illness.

COVID-19 symptoms may include, but are not limited to, a fever, cough, sore throat, severe fatigue, or difficulty breathing. In most cases, a person will have more than one symptom. If you have COVID-19 symptoms, please contact your health care provider before you go to their office and tell them how you are feeling, and discuss any possible exposure history.

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