



CITY OF BISMARCK DAILY BULLETIN

April 7, 2020

Bismarck-Burleigh Public Health (BBPH) Update

Bismarck-Burleigh Public Health announces the kick-off of a 'Homebody Hero' campaign that supplies a broad variety of creative ideas designed to serve as a guide for activities that anybody can do at home to help them stay healthy, active and occupied throughout the COVID-19 pandemic.

"Today, homebodies are heroes! We want to provide lots of different ways that anyone can use to keep themselves physically and mentally active while they're at home practicing social distancing," said Renae Moch, Bismarck-Burleigh Public Health Director. "Social distancing and staying at home are some of the most important things people can do to help slow the spread of COVID-19. "We're asking everyone who can, to be a 'Homebody Hero.' We hope that these ideas for activities will make it just a bit easier for them to do so. Staying home saves lives!"

The Homebody Hero campaign consists of daily social media posts that provide infographics and tips to keep people physically and mentally active while they're at home. To participate in the 'Homebody Hero' campaign, follow Bismarck-Burleigh Public Health at www.facebook.com/BBPH.gov.

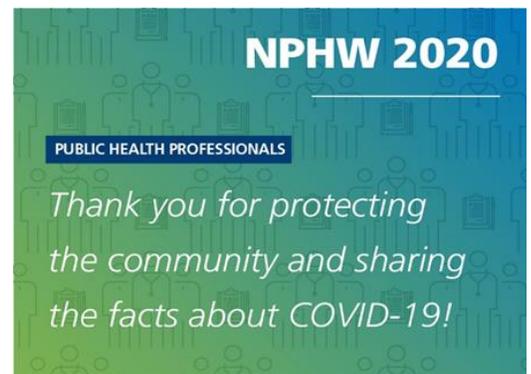
For more information about COVID-19, visit www.bismarcknd.gov/publichealth or follow them on social media at <https://www.facebook.com/BBPH.gov>, <https://twitter.com/BBPublicHealth>, and <https://www.instagram.com/bbpublichealth/>.



- Renae Moch, Bismarck-Burleigh Public Health Director, reported positive cases continued to come in for Burleigh County over the weekend. The contact tracing teams were busy all weekend doing contact investigation work. Contact tracing teams continue to see high numbers of contacts for those testing positive.
 - The US Surgeon General predicts this week to be our Pearl Harbor or 911 for COVID-19, meaning it will be the hardest and saddest for Americans with many deaths, as they anticipate a peak across the nation.
 - Please tell your friends, family, and anyone who will listen to **STAY HOME!**
- The [CDC recommends](#) wearing cloth face coverings in public settings where other social distancing measures are difficult to maintain (e.g., grocery stores and pharmacies), **especially** in areas of significant community-based transmission. CDC also advises the use of simple cloth face coverings to slow the spread of the virus and help people who may have the virus and do not

know it from transmitting it to others. Face coverings should not be N-95 or medical grade masks. Face coverings can be surgical masks or masks made at home from a scarf or bandanna.

- The “Operation Drive-in” pilot project deployed this weekend in Amidon and Gladstone, North Dakota. The intent of the pilot project is to identify positive cases earlier and slow the spread. Seven hundred thirty-five (735) tests were completed during these two days. See more [details](#).
- Governor Burgum reported that we have a 3.1% positive rate for the tests coming back in North Dakota. That is the 3rd lowest rate in the country. In addition, North Dakota is doing 8.9 tests per 1,000 individuals which is the 10th best testing rate in the nation. This is very positive compared to all the states in the nation.
- Assistant City Administrator Jason Tomanek, along with Bismarck-Burleigh Public Health Director Renae Moch, continue to provide information and updates about the combined COVID-19 pandemic response by the City of Bismarck and Bismarck-Burleigh Public Health. These informative updates take place weekly. Watch the live updates on Mondays, Wednesdays, and Fridays at 11 a.m. [HERE](#)
- This week we celebrate the 25th year of National Public Health Week. Though a pandemic response effort is not what we had planned for this week, we are doing our best to move forward and get through this as a team. Renae Moch says she couldn’t be prouder of the Bismarck-Burleigh Public Health staff and how they have all come together to work through this ever-changing, unprecedented time.



Coronavirus Cases

Updated around 11:00 AM daily

Last updated: 4/7/2020 at 11:00 AM



www.nphw.org



As of April 7, 2020, Burleigh County has the second-highest number of cases in North Dakota.

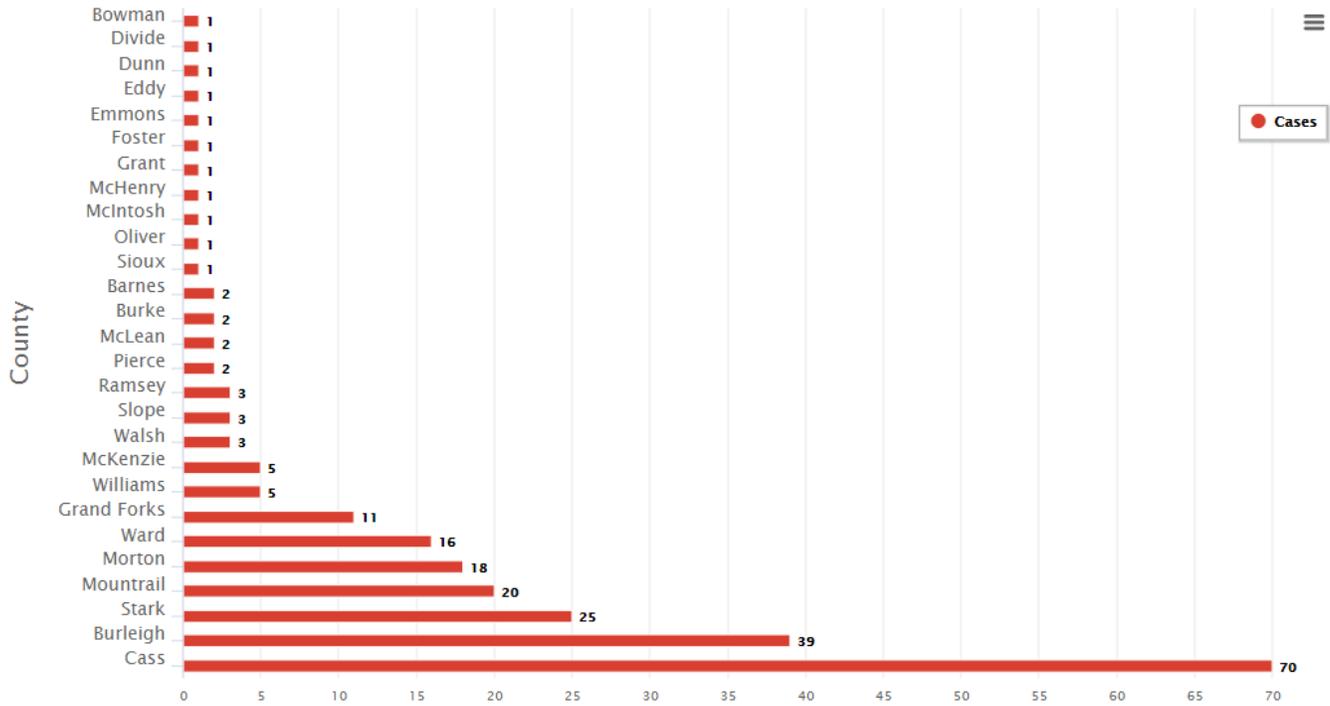
There are now 237 positive COVID-19 cases in the state of North Dakota. Of those new cases. **One of the positive**

cases was in Burleigh County, for a total of 39 positive cases in Burleigh County. Eighteen individuals are currently hospitalized throughout the state. The first, positive, pregnant case in North Dakota was confirmed April 2, 2020. ([CDC Guidance for Pregnant Women](#)). Sadly, another death occurred, bringing the state total to 4 deaths.

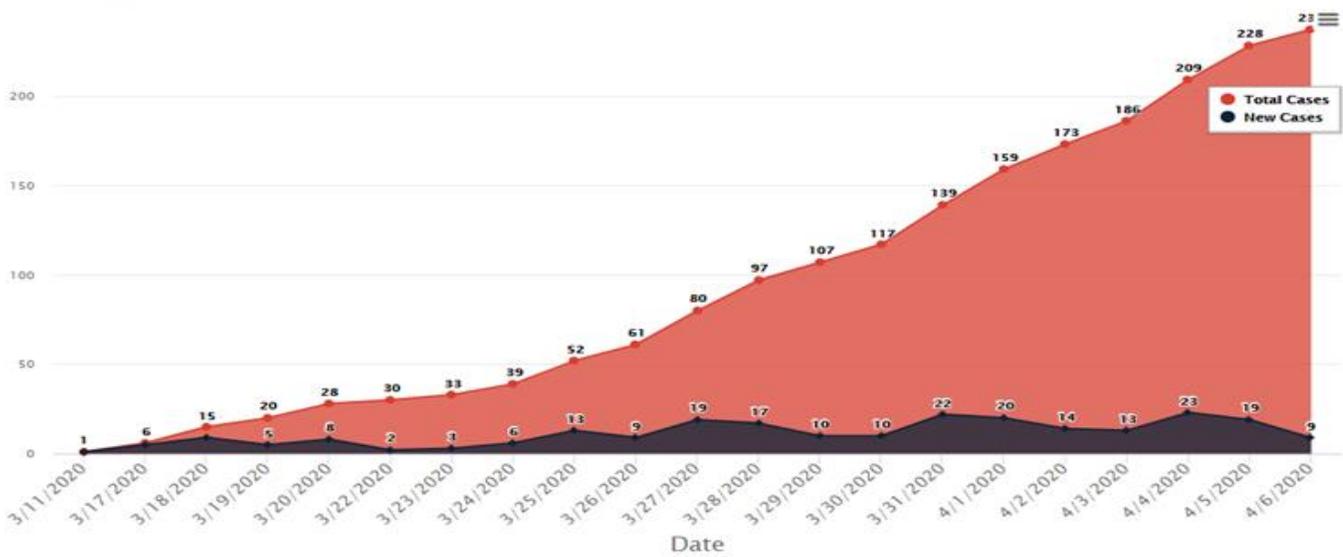


Confirmed Positive Cases by County

Some county names are hidden to prevent text overlap. Tap or hover over bar to see county name. Alternatively, see county map or table below.



Trending Curve



There is still a need to emphasize the importance of social distancing as recommended by the Centers for Disease Control. Everyone has an individual responsibility for the health and safety of our community during this COVID-19 pandemic. [Learn more about social distancing and how to protect yourself](#)

Due to the increase in positive cases in our area, the state has reached out to Bismarck-Burleigh Public Health (BBPH) to assist with contact tracing for these individuals. BBPH staff will continue to conduct contact tracing.

Individuals identified as close contacts of someone testing positive with COVID-19 will receive a phone call from the North Dakota Department of Health or the local public health department. You will then be provided with the appropriate steps to take next. Additionally, if a school or daycare is involved, letters will be sent to all parents. [See more information](#)

- **Steps to take to avoid the spread of COVID-19**

- Stay home if you're sick.
- Practice good hygiene: wash your hands, avoid touching your face and cover coughs and sneezes.
- If someone in the household has tested positive for coronavirus, keep the entire household at home.
- Older individuals and those with underlying health conditions should stay away from other people.
- Work from home when possible.
- Avoid discretionary travel, shopping trips and social visits. Use take-out and delivery services.
- [How to Protect Yourself & Others-](#)

SOCIAL DISTANCING IS A PRIORITY NOT A CHOICE

- STAY 6 FEET APART FROM OTHERS
- BE GOOD NEIGHBORS AND FRIENDS BY STAYING APART

We want to see what you are doing!
Share your photos with us:

@BBPH.gov • #socialdistancebbph

6 FEET APART

Public Health
Prevent. Promote. Protect.
Bismarck-Burleigh Public Health

NDoH COVID-19 HOTLINE: 7 AM - 10 PM
(p) 1.866.207.2880

BBPH: M-F • 8 AM - 5 PM
(p) 701.355.1540
(e) bbph@bismarcknd.gov

What to do if you have symptoms of COVID-19:

Individuals who think they may have COVID-19 but have minor symptoms should **self-isolate at home**.

Individuals seeking medical attention should call before they go in.

Symptoms of COVID-19 in people who have been exposed can include fever, cough and shortness of breath.

The symptoms may appear in as few as two days or as long as 14 days after exposure.

For questions related to COVID-19, the public can call the ND Department of Health hotline at 1-866-207-2880 from 7 a.m. to 10 p.m., 7 days a week. Individuals who need medical advice should contact their health care provider.

[Steps to help prevent the spread of COVID-19 if you are sick](#)

If you are being tested, find what you should know in the [NDDOH guide](#).



City of Bismarck Services

- City of Bismarck Mayor Steve Bakken provided a City update Monday on Facebook Live regarding the City's response to the COVID-19 pandemic. Be sure to watch Mayor Bakken's City Update every Monday at 10 a.m. [HERE](#). Highlights from Monday's update include:
 - Essential city services continue to operate as normal
 - Police Department is not ticketing in timed parking in the downtown district. **However, starting today officers will put a warning ticket on vehicles that are parking in one spot all day.**
 - Parents are encouraged to talk to their teens about social distancing
 - Citizens are encouraged to buy items in only the amounts they need
 - The Mayor recognized Public Health staff on their steadfast work to protect the community, noting that it is also National Public Health Week
- The City of Bismarck announces that the annual Arbor Day event scheduled to take place on Friday, May 1, has been postponed until fall due to the COVID-19 pandemic, and the guidelines set forth by the Centers for Disease Control and ND State Department of Health to limit social gatherings and practice social distancing. A specific date is yet to be determined. Once a new date has been determined, the city will announce it to the public through the City website, social media and local media sources. For more information visit www.bismarcknd.gov.
- **Reminder from Bismarck Fire Department that burning yard waste is prohibited**

The Bismarck Fire Department reminds residents that the City of Bismarck's Code of Ordinance prohibits the burning of yard waste within City limits. Yard waste includes: leaves, dry grass, weeds, and brush.

 - The Bismarck Public Works Department operates yard waste drop off sites, located throughout the City, where residents can bring their grass clippings and leaves. Please refer to the Bismarck Public Works Department's [webpage](#) for information on the proper disposal of yard waste.
- Bismarck Public Works reminds residents to continue to bring their garbage containers out to the curb, and to place them on the boulevard or driveway apron. Please make sure all garbage is bagged, inside and outside of the container. If it is outside the garbage container and not bagged, it will not be picked up. Large items such as furniture, mattresses, cardboard, etc. should be taken to the Bismarck landfill. Landfill hours are Monday – Saturday: 8:00 a.m. – 4:00 p.m. For more information visit www.bismarcknd.gov.
- Building Inspections Services Division has developed procedures in response to COVID-19. To reduce exposure and to protect the general public and our city employees, inspections will be suspended for all projects where access to an occupied dwelling unit is required. We are working hard to continue to provide inspections services during this unprecedented time and appreciate everyone's flexibility while we prioritize lower risk locations such as new residential and commercial projects, including healthcare facilities and critical infrastructure. [More details here](#).

- A list of City departments providing essential services, and contact information for each, is available [HERE](#)
- The Downtowners Association and the City of Bismarck have created a partnership to establish temporary curbside pickup zones in Downtown Bismarck to assist customers and businesses to connect in a safe way. McQuade Distributing has generously printed the signage for these zones to help customers and businesses connect a curbside purchase. Please help to support our local businesses as you continue to follow the health guidelines for safety during COVID-19. There are currently 8 zones in Downtown Bismarck. [View the map.](#)



The Bismarck Police Department, and the Bismarck Fire Department will look a little different when responding to calls for emergency service. To continue providing service to the community, it is important that we keep our first responders safe and healthy. They are following protocols to help protect their personnel, including the enhanced use of Personal Protective Equipment (PPE). This equipment is designed to keep first responders, and the public, safe by minimizing contact and reducing the spread of the virus. Though conditions continue to change by the hour, the Bismarck Police Department, and the Bismarck Fire Department stand ready to support the community 24/7/365.

- **We encourage the public to follow Bismarck-Burleigh Public Health and the City of Bismarck on our social media sites** for essential information. For the most updated and timely information related to COVID-19, visit the City of Bismarck web site at www.bismarcknd.gov and follow us on <https://www.facebook.com/BBPH.gov/>, <https://twitter.com/BBPublicHealth>, www.facebook.com/bismarcknd.gov and www.twitter.com/BismarckNDGov.
- **Emergency Alert Feature is Now Activated on the City of Bismarck Website.** This Emergency Alert Feature provides you with the latest news and information on COVID-19 and the actions the City of Bismarck is taking in response to it. To receive real-time updates via text and email from the alert system on your handheld devices [sign up for "Notify Me"](#).
- **Stay Connected with the City of Bismarck Mobile App** Download Bismarck's mobile app to stay connected to official city resources, news, and information from your smart phone, tablet or other hand-held devices. [Sign up today!](#)
- **Remember that live meeting coverage of government meetings** is available for viewing on Government Access Channels 2 & 602HD or listen to the meeting at Radio Access 102.5 FM Radio, or stream [Government Access](#) and [Radio Access 102.5](#).



Executive Orders

- Governor Burgum signed two executive orders Monday designed to slow the spread of COVID-19 in North Dakota and to protect the most vulnerable from the coronavirus disease by limiting visitation to long-term care facilities.
 - The first [executive order](#) requires individuals who test positive for COVID-19 to self-quarantine in their place of residence for no less than 14 days or as directed by order of the State Health Officer. Family and household members residing with the infected individual and identified by the North Dakota Department of Health (NDDoH) as a contact of an infected individual must do the same.
 - In Monday's second [executive order](#), Burgum suspended visitation to long-term care facilities, including skilled nursing facilities and basic care facilities, except in cases of end-of-life or compassionate care circumstances such as medical and emotional care for patients with terminal diseases, including hospice care. All non-essential personnel and volunteers are restricted from long-care facilities until further notice.
- Governor Burgum signed an [executive order](#) giving school districts the flexibility to hold elections by mail ballot only between April 1 and June 30. A separate [executive order](#) giving counties similar flexibility was previously issued. View more details [here](#).
- Governor Burgum signed an [executive order](#) waiving the mandatory one-week waiting period for unemployment benefits as claims continue to increase in North Dakota during the COVID-19 pandemic. Learn more details [here](#).
- Governor Burgum extended the [executive order](#) for closures from April 6 to April 20. This includes state facilities, restaurants (other than take out or delivery) personal care services and more.

Important Updates and Information

- **Insurance Department and insurance companies collaborate to benefit North Dakota consumers**

Insurance Commissioner Jon Godfread applauded the issuance of "Shelter-in-Place-Payback" to car insurance drivers insured by Allstate and the creation of the "Return of Premium Relief Fund" by American Family Insurance.

- Customers of Allstate may qualify for a payback equal to 15% of their March and April premiums, payable in April and May respectively. Qualifying customers of American Family Insurance will be entitled to a one-time \$50 payment per insured vehicle from the Return of Premium Relief Fund. This comes on the heels of extensions of coverage for customers that are using their personal vehicles to deliver food and supplies during the pandemic.
- The Insurance Department issued Bulletin 2020-8 to urge all North Dakota insurers, producers, adjustors and other persons licensed and authorized to transact the business of insurance within the state of North Dakota to provide flexibility and possible relief from certain insurance requirements to those North Dakota consumers and businesses that have been impacted by the COVID-19 pandemic.
- Any relief offered to consumers who are facing financial hardship due to COVID-19, as described in Bulletin 2020-8, will not be considered unfairly discriminatory or a rebate if the

relief is focused on providing additional consumer protections and is reasonably applied to all insureds, claimants or covered persons that are similarly impacted by this public health crisis.

- **Non-essential ag activities and events should be canceled or postponed**

While agriculture and food have been deemed essential industries by the Department of Homeland Security, agriculture-related activities and events that are not essential to the process of producing food and feed should be canceled or postponed to a later date.

- “We understood there was some confusion regarding our prior guidance on ag activities and events that are non-essential,” Agriculture Commissioner Doug Goehring said. “Events such as livestock auction markets and ag auction sales are considered essential and can operate with certain precautions to mitigate risk. Events such as youth livestock sales, animal shows and other activities should either be canceled or moved to a date in the future and reassessed at that time.”
- Goehring said that sales and events that are able to be done with web-based features and viewed online without in-person attendance could continue. “The people who are organizing the sale or event and need to be at the site in person should be limited to those that are essential and take all precautions to protect themselves and others,” he said.

- **Protocols for workers arriving from other countries, states**

Employers should follow certain protocols if they have workers coming from other countries and/or states during this pandemic. Agriculture, construction, and other seasonal workers will soon enter North Dakota for spring employment, and state agencies and associations urge them to protect themselves and others from COVID-19.

- From the time of arrival, workers should fill out the North Dakota Department of Health [travel survey](#), have no contact with anyone in the community and quarantine for 14 days.
- The employer should provide them essentials while they are quarantined such as food, cleaning products, sanitizer, toothpaste, toiletries, etc.
- The employer should monitor the health and welfare of employees quarantined and ensure they are healthy before they are released to work.
- Everyone should practice every day preventative behaviors, such as staying home when sick, avoiding contact with sick people, covering coughs and sneezes, frequently washing hands with soap and water and cleaning frequently touched surfaces.



State Health Officer Mylynn Tufte signed a confinement order directing individuals to quarantine for 14 days if traveling back to North Dakota from all international locations and states in the U.S. classified as having widespread disease by the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention. [More information here.](#)



- **Unemployment Insurance system now accepting new Pandemic-related claim types**
Job Service North Dakota has successfully implemented programming to accept two new Pandemic related claim types provided by the recently passed federal CARES Act. With this implementation, Job Service is now able to accept online claims from independent contractors, gig economy workers, self-employed individuals, and workers who may have exhausted the benefits available to them under the regular Unemployment Insurance system. Applicants should go to jobsnd.com for more information.
- **ND Human Services to issue extra SNAP benefits for March and April**
 - In response to the COVID-19 pandemic, with funding from Congress included in the Families First Coronavirus Response Act and support from the federal U.S. Department of Agriculture – Food and Nutrition Services, the ND Department of Human Services will be issuing extra Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP) benefits for March and April to some SNAP households in the state. [Find more information here.](#)
- **Child Support Program continues to serve parents during COVID-19 pandemic**
The North Dakota Department of Human Services' Child Support Division wants parents, employers and other partners to know that services continue to be available despite the COVID-19 pandemic.
 - Fleming said the Child Support Program has been working on expanding its already robust website to operate as a "virtual office." Most Child Support team members have transitioned to telework and continue to provide services that enhance the well-being of children and families.
 - Parents with child support cases who have been impacted by job loss or reduced work hours are encouraged to monitor their accounts online at childsupportnd.com or can contact Child Support customer service at 701-328-5440, toll-free 800-231-4255 or 711 (TTY) during regular business hours and until 7 p.m. CT on Mondays or by email at childsupport@nd.gov.
- **Fund set up for donations to aid COVID-19 response**
Are you looking for ways to support your community during this crisis? The best way is to donate directly to a trusted, local organization. If they can't accept donations, or if you prefer, you can give to the ND COVID-19 Community & Nonprofit Response Fund at the North Dakota Community Foundation. www.ndcf.net
- **Personal protective equipment being accepted**
Donations of personal protective equipment also are being accepted to ensure health care workers and first responders are protected as they respond to COVID-19. Commercially-produced supplies can be dropped off at NDDOT district locations. [Details here.](#)
- Attorney General Wayne Stenehjem reminds North Dakota residents to check the facts to [avoid being fooled by a coronavirus-related scam](#). Information is also available by calling toll-free 1-800-472-2600.

- Be aware, if you are receiving phone calls or e-mails asking for donations or personal information it could be scam. Members of the public can report suspected fraud scam related to COVID-19 by calling the National Center for Disaster Fraud hotline at 866-720-5721 or emailing disaster@leo.gov.
- The Burleigh County Courthouse is restricting public access due to COVID-19. Contact them at 701-355-1350 or website <https://www.bismarcknd.gov/93/Municipal-Court> for instructions regarding alternate communications (phone, email, website, mail, drop box).
- Effective March 23, 2020, Bis-Man Transit restricted public access to its facility and implemented changes to Capital Area Transit (fixed-route) and Paratransit service until further notice. Call 701-258-6817 or visit <https://bismantransit.com/> for more information.

Information and Resources

- [Daily Bulletin](#)
- [City of Bismarck website](#)
- COVID-19 information [NDDoH website](#)
- COVID-19 Hotline 7 am-10 pm: 1-866-207-2880
- [COVID-19 Behavioral Health Resources](#)
- [Centers for Disease Control](#)
[Español](#)
- [NDResponse.gov](#)
- [COVID19 Resources for Business](#)
- Department of Commerce [resources for businesses](#)
- [ND Response: COVID-19 Personal, Family and Community Support](#)
- [ND Attorney General Consumer Protection consumer complaints](#) call toll-free 1-800-472-2600
- [Federal Trade Commission Tips for Coronavirus Scams](#)
- [Where to Go for Help Resources](#)
- [Missouri River system Game and Fish boat ramp access status](#)
- Follow us on www.facebook.com/BBPH.gov and www.twitter.com/BBPublicHealth
- www.facebook.com/bismarcknd.gov and www.twitter.com/BismarckNDGov
- [Stay Connected with the City of Bismarck Mobile App](#)