



# DENISON REVIEW

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## COVID-19 cases in county jump to 300

### Tests caught in backlog may be reason for big one-day increase

by Gordon Wolf

Those following the state's coronavirus statistics website, coronavirus.iowa.gov, noticed a sharp increase in the number of positive COVID-19 cases in Crawford County from Wednesday to Thursday, from 207 positive cases to 300.

A backlog in cases may have been the reason for a one-day jump of 93 positive cases.

Kim Fineran, director of Crawford County Public Health, said her department received 81 notifications through the state system on Wednesday, and that 62 of those tests had been completed anywhere from seven to 14 days prior to the notifications coming in.

She assumed that these were among the backlog of tests at the State Hygienic Lab that Gov. Kim Reynolds spoke about during one of her press conferences this week.

Fineran said that testing continues at a fairly steady level by the medical providers in the community.

And, after a soft rollout on Saturday and Sunday, the Test Iowa site at Denison Middle School began operating for full days on Monday.

Today is the last day the Test Iowa site in Denison is scheduled to be open. People must take the assessment on the website, testiowa.com, to determine if they are eligible to receive a test. People can also call 211.

No count on the number of tests conducted at the Test Iowa site at Denison Middle School has been released yet by the state.

However, during yesterday's news conference, Reynolds said that more than 4,300 individuals had been tested throughout the state through Test Iowa since that initiative began 23 days ago.

On Saturday, the eighth Test Iowa site will open in Storm Lake, the governor pointed out.

Denison Mayor Pam Soseman said getting the Test Iowa site in Denison was a challenge. She pointed out it wasn't just her but many people pushing to get a testing site in the community.

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A vehicle enters the tent at the Test Iowa site at Denison Middle School on Thursday afternoon. The orange Department of Transportation truck in the background was brought to the site to serve as a windbreak for the tent. Photo by Gordon Wolf

## Denison city-wide cleanup set for May 22-23

The Denison city-wide cleanup has been set for Friday and Saturday of next week.

Residents can bring their excess refuse to be put in the containers set at the 7th Street ball field in Denison between 8 a.m.-1 p.m. on May 22 and May 23.

Items not allowed include the following.

- No metal or concrete chunks
  - No steel, aluminum or tin
  - No tires
  - No appliances – refrigerators, freezers, microwaves, dehumidifiers, stoves, washers, dryers, furnaces or air conditioners can be mixed with waste
  - No fencing wire
  - No liquids
  - No hazardous waste or yard waste materials
  - No liquid paint of any kind (please dry paint with kitty litter)
  - No items which are part of the recycling program
  - No dimensional lumber over 6 feet in length
- People with questions regarding proper disposal of any of the items above may call 712-263-3143.



## Morgan performs Front Porch Tour for WESCO clients

Country music artist and songwriter Brad Morgan spent Thursday afternoon conducting the Front Porch Tour, singing for about 15 minutes for residents at each of the 14 WESCO Industry homes in Denison. The Manning native, who currently lives in Nashville, Tennessee, took requests and sang some of his own songs, including "Grain of Salt." Morgan is pictured playing for residents who live in a house on 20th Street. WESCO's idea for the Front Porch Tour was for a performer to travel from house to house to sing songs to break up the monotony and routine that residents are currently experiencing by having to stay at home. WESCO residents are not allowed to leave their homes under the current coronavirus mitigation measures, except for short trips to area parks. Staff does the shopping for the residents as they do not enter any stores as a precaution to them. Photo by Gordon Wolf

## "Soft opening" of courthouse to begin Monday

### Action dependent on arrival of safety precautions, COVID-19 numbers in county

by Dan Mundt

After a lengthy discussion of the matter at the Tuesday morning Crawford County Board of Supervisors meeting, the supervisors voted 3-2 to have a "soft opening" of the Crawford County Courthouse on Monday, May 18.

Supervisors Cecil Blum, Kyle Shultz and Dave Muhlbauer voted to move forward with beginning to reopen the courthouse; supervisors Jeri Vogt and Eric Skoog voted against.

All of the supervisors agreed that if the situation changed for the worse by today (Friday, May 15) that the "soft opening" could be canceled or pushed back.

The courthouse doors have been locked since March 17, with access for members of the public by appointment only.

The reopening of the courthouse will be dependent on whether safety precautions are in place in all of the courthouse offices as of today and on whether the COVID-19 situation in the county has changed for the worse.

Plexiglas shields for the office counters have been ordered, but had not arrived as of Thursday.

The "soft opening" will involve having the east courthouse door unlocked with a county employee staffing the entrance.

The courthouse staff member will check the temperature of all visitors before entry.

Entry will not be allowed if the individual has:

- a temperature of 100° or higher
- COVID-19 symptoms (fever, cough, shortness of breath)

- traveled outside of the state within the past 14 days
- been around someone that has tested positive for COVID-19

Visitors will be asked to wear a mask while in the courthouse. Individuals must provide their own mask.

Once inside the courthouse, individuals will be asked to wash their hands or use hand sanitizer before doing business in the office they are visiting.

Individuals will be escorted to and from the office they are visiting.

The number of visitors allowed in each office will be dictated by the size of the customer area in the office and the amount of counter space available.

Visitors must stay at least six feet away from others when in the courthouse.

During this phase, the public is strongly encouraged to use alternative methods to do business with the courthouse offices: online, by phone, or by using the drop box on the east side of the building.

Crawford County Auditor Terri Martens said she strongly suggests calling ahead to make sure the courthouse and specific offices are open before individuals travel to the courthouse in case the supervisors decide on Friday not to go forward with the soft opening.

Crawford County office phone numbers:

- Assessor: 712-263-3447
- Auditor: 712-263-3045
- Clerk of Court: 712-263-1279
- County Attorney: 712-263-5609
- County Engineer: 712-263-2449
- Juvenile Services: 712-263-5442
- Recorder: 712-263-3643
- Sheriff: 712-263-2146
- Treasurer: 712-263-2648
- Veterans Affairs/Mental Health and General Relief: 712-263-5448

## Stormwater runoff mitigation projects resume

### Hospital, middle school benefit from DMU project

by Dan Mundt

Work on two stormwater mitigation projects that were approved a year ago are underway after being put on hold last year.

One project is near Crawford County Memorial Hospital (CCMH); the other will be at Denison Middle School (DMS).

"It was delayed because we did not receive any bids on the project the first time we went out for bids; that was the only reason," said Rory Weis, Denison Municipal Utilities (DMU) General Manager.

Contact was made with local contractors to ask why they hadn't submitted a bid, he said.

The contractors that might have been interested in the projects did not have time to get it in their schedule last year, he said.

"That's why we decided to go back out and rebid it," Weis said.



Work began on a project to reduce the erosion caused by stormwater runoff near Crawford County Memorial Hospital this week. A terrace will slow and reduce the amount of water that enters a stream along Highway 59. Photo by Brad Bonner

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