



Raising achievement and closing the gaps for ALL students.

# Tip-Off

October 19, 2020

## A Message From Experienced Educators:

Dear Fellow Educators,

We would like to express our gratitude and appreciation formally and sincerely for your amazing dedication during these trying times. You have impressed and shown us exceptional discipline and dedication to our students and community.

Your actions have impacted the Omaha Public Schools by your performances. We want you to know that we value the amount of effort you have put into your work. You are significantly appreciated as an essential part of the educational profession.

Once again, thank you for your hard work. We look forward to seeing your future achievements and successes!

*Sincerely,*

**Liz Rea**

OEA Foundation

**Walta Sue Dodd**

OEA-Retired

**Connie Hill**

OARSEA

## School Board Contact Teams(SBCT)



OEA is filling the spots for the School Board Contact Teams that are starting up for the 19-20 school year.

OEA members are trained, the topics are selected, and you will be given OEA positions on the topics selected to share with your assigned School Board Buddy. There are two OEA members assigned to each Board member and you will meet with your Board buddy together with the other OEA member assigned to that board member.

This is your chance to talk directly to a School Board member and share concerns. The School Board Contact teams make a difference.

**If you are interested in participating, contact:**

**[Robert at robert.miller@nsea.org](mailto:robert.miller@nsea.org)**

**[Becca Dingwell at becca.dingwell@nsea.org](mailto:becca.dingwell@nsea.org)**

## Quarantine Housing Open to Educators

The Nebraska Department of Health and Human Services, in partnership with the Nebraska Department of Education, has opened the Nebraska Accommodation Project, designed to provide temporary housing for any Nebraskan as a result of COVID-19 exposure.

The program provides short-term housing for quarantine and/or isolation locations outside of any Nebraskan's usual household in order to protect a household member with a health condition that puts them at high risk from exposure to COVID-19. The program includes a specific application link for educators.

To qualify, educators must be a state resident employed by a Nebraska school, must be physically working on a school campus and come in contact with children on campus daily. Applicants must also have a full-time cohabitant with a high-risk medical diagnosis and no alternative living situation outside their permanent residence.

Placement is in a local hotel within 24 hours of application. There is no charge, as long as the guest does not violate program policies. Employers are not notified of the temporary housing situation.

The program also offers an application link for healthcare workers and first responders.

Those Nebraskans who test positive for COVID-19 must remain at the selected quarantine site for at least 72 hours after fever has passed without the use of medicine and at least 10 days after symptoms first appeared.

Those Nebraskans who were exposed in a closed space for more than 15 minutes with a COVID-19-positive person, but who do not show symptoms, must remain at the hotel or site until COVID-19 test results arrive. Health care workers, first responders and educators can travel to and from work only. Other Nebraskans are limited to on-site until test results arrive. For details, go to:

**[dhhs.ne.gov/Pages/Nebraska-Accommodation-Project.aspx](https://dhhs.ne.gov/Pages/Nebraska-Accommodation-Project.aspx)**

# Blue Cross Reminds Membership of No-Cost COVID-19 Benefits

## Waives Fee for Tests, Treatment

NSEA members who utilize the Blue Cross and Blue Shield of Nebraska health care plan through the Educators Health Alliance, are reminded that the health care provider will waive costs for medically necessary in-network testing and treatment of COVID-19.

All but four Nebraska school districts utilize the Blue Cross and Blue Shield of Nebraska plan.

In a flyer, the health care provider said that “Blue Cross and Blue Shield of Nebraska will waive costs for medically necessary in-network testing and treatment of COVID-19. We encourage the use of in-network providers for COVID-19 testing and treatment. In-network providers will never ask for upfront payment for COVID-19 testing or treatment.”

The company also urged plan members to learn more at:

[nebraskablue.com/coronavirus](http://nebraskablue.com/coronavirus)

The company also offered these tips for protecting yourself and others from COVID-19:

- Wash your hands often. Wash your hands with soap and water for at least 20 seconds. Use hand sanitizer if soap is not available.
- Practice social distancing. Limit close contact with others and remember people without symptoms may be able to spread the virus.
- Cover your mouth and nose with a cloth face covering when around others. This is especially important when social distancing is difficult to maintain.
- Clean and disinfect. Frequently touched surfaces such as cell phones, laptops, keyboards, door-knobs, etc., should be disinfected often.
- Cover coughs and sneezes. Cover your mouth and nose with a tissue or use the inside of your elbow.

To learn more or to find a test site, consult your doctor or visit: [TestNebraska.com](http://TestNebraska.com)



### What's Coming Up...

#### All meetings via Zoom

(Reach out to the Office to get the zoom link for the various meetings.)

Instructional Advocacy  
Tuesday, October 20  
4:45pm

Governance Meeting  
Wednesday, October 21  
4:45pm

Public Community Relations  
Wednesday, October 21  
4:45pm

NGEN Meeting  
Wednesday, October 21  
4:45pm

PACE Meeting  
Thursday, October 29  
4:45pm

MEMBERSHIP Meeting  
Tuesday, November 3  
4:45pm

Board of Directors Meeting  
Wednesday, November 4  
4:45pm

Comp and Benefits Meeting  
Wednesday, November 11  
4:45pm



## Recommended Candidates

### OPS School Board

Subdistrict 1 - Ricky Smith  
Subdistrict 3 - Alex Gates  
Subdistrict 7 - Jane Erdenberger  
Subdistrict 9 - Tracy Casady

### Legislative Districts

3 - Senator Carol Blood  
7 - Senator Tony Vargas  
9 - John Cavanaugh  
11 - Terrell McKinney  
13 - Senator Justin Wayne  
31 - Tim Royers  
39 - Allison Heimes  
45 - Susan Hester  
49 - Jen Day

### Congressional District

2 - Kara Eastman

### State Board of Education

District 2 - Lisa Fricke  
District 4 - Jacquelyn Morrison

### OEA Tip-Off

The OEA Tip-Off is a bi-monthly publication printed for members of the Omaha Education Association.

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