

## FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

### Nebraska's Covid Operations Dashboard recognized for Special Achievement in Geographic Information Services

*Geographic Information System Provider Esri Awards Nebraska Department of Health and Human Services (DHHS) and Nebraska Office of the Chief Information Officer (OCIO) at Virtual User Conference*

**JULY 12, 2021 (LINCOLN, NEB.)** — Today, the State of Nebraska Department of Health and Human Services (DHHS) and the Office of the Chief Information Officer (OCIO) were awarded for Special Achievement in Geographic Information Services (GIS). The award was presented by Esri, the ArcGIS geospatial software developer, at the organization's annual User Conference which took place by virtual format this year. Nebraska was selected from over 300,000 eligible candidates from around the world for their innovative use of mapping and analytics technology, as well as leadership in the field of Public Health Information.

"It is a tremendous honor for the State of Nebraska to receive this award," wrote Ed Toner, State CIO. "It is a tribute to the hard work and dedication of DHHS and OCIO employees who worked to maintain this dashboard to convey pertinent information about COVID-19 cases to the citizens of Nebraska, and to decision makers in both the public and private sectors during this pandemic."

Nebraska's Operations Dashboard provided the citizens of Nebraska with a visualization of data current with the State's COVID-19 case information serving the State's public health communications throughout Nebraska's coronavirus state of emergency. Data utilized by State analysts regarding Nebraska's statewide COVID-19 case status was updated daily on the public dashboard from March 2020 until June 30, 2021 with the Governor's announcement to end Nebraska's coronavirus state of emergency. The dashboard has since been updated for internal use. Added in January 2021, the dashboard also provided a daily status of the state's vaccination efforts. During peak times the website reached over 80,000 daily views (April 2020).

The State of Nebraska was one of 193 organizations nominated by Esri staff—in areas such as commercial industry, defense, transportation, nonprofit work, telecommunications, and government—to receive honors.

For more information about the State of Nebraska's innovative work in geospatial technology, visit:  
<https://cio.nebraska.gov/gio/index.html>

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