



February 1, 2021

For immediate release

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## **All Panhandle residents encouraged to sign up for the COVID vaccine and help others get registered too**

**Nebraska residents 18-64** are encouraged to sign up for the COVID vaccine at <https://vaccinate.ne.gov>. The Spanish version will be coming soon. It is not first-come, first-served and people will have a chance to schedule appointments when it is their turn and vaccine is available. If you are under 65 and have registered on the Panhandle list, please complete the state registration now.

**Panhandle residents 65 and older** are still encouraged to register via the following form: <https://tinyurl.com/ycpxzr5d>. The site has a Spanish option available as well. Online link completion is preferred but people can call 308-262-5764 or 308-633-2866 ext. 101. This will put people on the list that is being coordinated with local vaccine providers. When vaccines are available, appointments will be scheduled, and individuals will be called days ahead.

Both links are accessible at [www.pphd.org](http://www.pphd.org) on the home screen. Registration is simple and takes less than a couple of minutes.

COVID vaccinations are also available at the Scottsbluff Community-Based Outpatient Clinic (CBOC) for veterans enrolled in the VA Health Care system. Vaccinations are by appointment only, no walk-ins. Call 308-225-5330 for appointment scheduling.

If you have had COVID, you are still encouraged to get the vaccine once you no longer have symptoms and achieved recovery status. If you received the monoclonal antibody treatment, it is recommended to get the vaccine no sooner than 90 days after treatment.

As of today, 5,612 Panhandle residents have received the COVID vaccine. Health care personnel, long-term care, and those 75 and older are currently being vaccinated. This will take several more weeks. People who have received both COVID vaccine doses, will not be required to quarantine due to close contact.

If you have received your first dose and have not heard when you will receive your second dose, don't panic, you will be contacted by the vaccine provider that administered your first dose.

Two Sheridan County males, one in his 60s and one in his 70s, are the most recent COVID deaths being announced. This brings the total deaths to 175.

“We share peace and comfort with the friends and loved ones in the loss of our fellow Panhandle residents,” said Engel.

Unified Command confirms 110 more cases of COVID in the Panhandle since last reporting on Monday, January 25. The investigations are underway, all close contacts will be quarantined.

<b>All Ages: 110</b>	
<b>County</b>	<b>Cases</b>
Banner	0
Box Butte	4
Cheyenne	19
Dawes	19
Deuel	0
Garden	1
Grant	3
Kimball	9
Morrill	2
Scotts Bluff	34
Sheridan	18
Sioux	1

<b>Exposure Type</b>	
Community	59%
Close Contact	35%
Travel	0%
Under Investigation	5%

**March 2, 2020-February 1, 2021**

- **Total Tests Conducted: 33,176**
- **Positive: 8,368**
- **Last 14 days (active) cases: 246**
- **Last week’s cases: 110**
- **Last week’s positivity rate: 15.1%**
- **Deaths: 175**
- **Active Hospitalizations: 9**
- **Total Cumulative Hospitalizations: 520**
- **Doubling time (November 11, 2020-February 2, 2021): 83 days**

**Avoid the Three Cs:**

- Avoid Crowded Places – Avoid gathering in groups where you cannot maintain 6-feet of distance from others
- Avoid Close Contact – Wear a mask over your nose and mouth or maintain 6-foot distance when you are spending more than 15 total minutes with people you don't live with
- Avoid Confined Spaces – Avoid enclosed spaces with poor ventilation

Current COVID testing access can be found at [www.pphd.org](http://www.pphd.org).

The Panhandle COVID dashboard is updated weekdays at 4:30 pm MT and available at [www.pphd.org](http://www.pphd.org). For the most up to date information from the CDC, visit <https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/index.html>.

Panhandle Public Health District, Region 21, 22, and 23 Emergency Management, and Scotts Bluff County Health Department are working as a unified command on this evolving situation. Essential updates will be regularly communicated to the public and community partners.

Panhandle Public Health District is working together to improve the health, safety, and quality of life for all who live, learn, work, and play in the Panhandle. Our vision is that we are a healthier and safer Panhandle Community. Visit our website [www.pphd.org](http://www.pphd.org).