



February 8, 2021

For immediate release

For more information, contact: Kim Engel, Director, 308-760-2415, [kengel@pphd.org](mailto:kengel@pphd.org)

### **Effective immediately: Panhandle vaccine registration system transitioning to state system**

Effective immediately, the Panhandle vaccine registration system is transitioning to the state system. We are encouraging all Panhandle residents over the age of 18 that have not registered yet to please do so now at: [vaccinate.ne.gov](https://vaccinate.ne.gov).

If you have registered up until this point, rest assured, you are on the list and do not need to register again. If you need help registering, call either of these numbers: 833-998-2275 or 531-249-1873. The Spanish version will be coming soon.

This is also accessible at [www.pphd.org](https://www.pphd.org). 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, 7,090 or 8.1% of Panhandle residents have received the COVID vaccine. Health care personnel, long-term care, and those 65 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.

Five additional deaths are being announced as follows, bringing the total deaths to 180:

- Deuel County male in his 70s
- Kimball County female in her 90s
- Scotts Bluff County male in his 80s

- Two Sheridan County males: one in his 70s & one in his 80s

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

Unified Command confirms 118 more cases of COVID in the Panhandle since last reporting on Monday, February 1. The investigations are underway, all close contacts will be quarantined.

**All Ages: 118**

County	Cases
Banner	0
Box Butte	7
Cheyenne	14
Dawes	25
Deuel	2
Garden	3
Grant	1
Kimball	23
Morrill	6
Scotts Bluff	30
Sheridan	7
Sioux	0

**Exposure Type**

Community	58%
Close Contact	37%
Travel	0%
Under Investigation	5%

**March 2, 2020-February 8, 2021**

- **Total Tests Conducted: 33,765**
- **Positive: 8,486**
- **Last 14 days (active) cases: 219**
- **Last week’s cases: 123**
- **Last week’s positivity rate: 24.9%**
- **Deaths: 180**
- **Active Hospitalizations: 14**
- **Total Cumulative Hospitalizations: 525**
- **Doubling time (November 11, 2020-February 8, 2021): 90 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-feet 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).