



March 22, 2021

For immediate release

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Get your COVID vaccine in preparation for spring and summer activities

As of today, 18,876 or 28.8% of Panhandle adults have received the COVID vaccine. People are urged to help friends, family, and neighbors sign up for theirs. This can be done by going to <https://vaccinate.ne.gov> or calling 833-998-2275.

“People will likely be surprised how quickly they are being scheduled to get their COVID vaccine now. Communities are moving to persons aged 30 and older if they are not already at that point,” said Kim Engel, Panhandle Public Health District Director.

There’s no need to wait, register now so local vaccine providers can determine when to move to the next critical phases who are anxiously awaiting getting theirs. Please help your family, friends, and neighbors sign up now.

Studies are showing the COVID vaccines provide 100% protection against severe illness, hospitalization, and death. Vaccines are one of the single greatest achievements in public health, be sure to get your COVID shot when it’s your turn. People who are fully COVID vaccinated will not be required to quarantine due to close contact.

Unified Command confirms 52 more cases of COVID in the Panhandle since last reporting on Monday, March 15. The investigations are underway, all close contacts will be quarantined.

All Ages: 52

County	Cases
Banner	0
Box Butte	2
Cheyenne	3
Dawes	2
Deuel	0
Garden	0
Grant	1
Kimball	1
Morrill	1

Scotts Bluff	40
Sheridan	2
Sioux	0

Exposure Type	
Community	42%
Close Contact	48%
Travel	0%
Under Investigation	10%

March 2, 2020-March 22, 2021

- **Total Tests Conducted: 36,180**
- **Positive: 8,859**
- **Last 14 days (active) cases: 84**
- **Last week's cases: 55**
- **Last week's positivity rate: 17%**
- **Deaths: 189**
- **Active Hospitalizations: 4**
- **Total Cumulative Hospitalizations: 535**
- **Doubling time (November 15, 2020-March 22, 2021): 127 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.

The Panhandle COVID dashboard is updated weekdays at 4:30 pm MT and available at 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.