



June 15, 2020

For immediate release

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**Newly announced phase three Directed Health Measure to take effect June 22
Nine more cases announced; Panhandle total: 218, Active: 86, Recovered: 130, Deaths: 2**

Several announcements were shared in the Governor's news conference today. Governor Ricketts announced we will move into phase three of the Directed Health Measure beginning June 22, loosening restrictions that have been in place during the COVID-19 pandemic response.

The full details for the transition of phases can be accessed at <http://pphd.org/COVID-19.html>, under resources. Changes specific to phase three can be found here: <https://tinyurl.com/yclb5wfx>.

A phasing guidance has been developed for long-term care facilities for responsibly easing restrictions in facilities while COVID-19 remains in communities across Nebraska. Facilities will work closely with health districts to complete baseline testing of their staff to identify infected persons, whether they are asymptomatic or ill, and get them into isolation. This will let people that are virus-free continue to function normally and prevent asymptomatic spread to others.

Also announced today by Nebraska Education Commissioner Matthew Blomstedt, is their expectation that schools will have in-person learning this fall. They are working on best practices found at launchne.com.

Free drive-thru testing will be available in four Panhandle locations this week:

- **Chadron:** Wednesday from 8am-Noon: Chadron Community Hospital, 825 Centennial Drive, testing will be on the west side of the building
- **Alliance:** Thursday from 8am-Noon: Alliance Fire Department, 315 Cheyenne Ave
- **Scottsbluff:** Friday & Saturday from 8am-Noon: Panhandle Public Health District, 18 W. 16th St
- **Sidney:** Sunday from 8am-Noon: Location to Be Announced

If you are experiencing symptoms currently, do not wait for testing, call your doctor, clinic, or our 24/7 line at 308-262-5764.

COVID-19 testing is now available at Community Action Health Center Mondays, Wednesdays, and Fridays from 7a-8a. Testing is open to those that are symptomatic. Sign up today <https://tinyurl.com/Y8P6YU02>.

Unified Command confirms nine new cases in Scotts Bluff County, they are as follows:

County	Demographics	Exposure Type
Scotts Bluff	Female in her 20s	Close Contact
Scotts Bluff	Female in her 20s	Close Contact
Scotts Bluff	Female in her 30s	Close Contact
Scotts Bluff	Female in her 40s	Close Contact
Scotts Bluff	Female in her 50s	Close Contact
Scotts Bluff	Female in her 60s	Close Contact
Scotts Bluff	Males in his teens	Close Contact
Scotts Bluff	Male in his 50s	Close Contact
Scotts Bluff	Male in his 60s	Close Contact

Exposure is defined as at least 15 minutes, less than six feet apart. There are no community exposure sites identified. The investigations are complete, all close contacts will be quarantined and actively monitored twice daily for fever and respiratory symptoms by public health officials.

Thirteen cases have recovered: one in Banner County, two in Cheyenne County, and ten in Scotts Bluff County, bringing the total recoveries to 130.

March 2-June 15, 2020

Total Tests Conducted: 4,304

Positive: 218

Cumulative Positivity Rate: 4.9%

Recovered: 130

Active Cases: 86

Active Hospitalizations: 6

Total Cumulative Hospitalizations: 27

Deaths: 2

- **Banner County: 1 case (recovered)**
- **Box Butte County: 3 cases (1 active, 2 recovered)**
- **Cheyenne County: 11 cases (11 recovered)**
- **Dawes County: 1 case (recovered)**
- **Garden County: 4 cases (recovered)**
- **Kimball County: 10 cases (10 recovered)**
- **Morrill County: 12 cases (2 active, 10 recovered)**
- **Scotts Bluff County: 175 Cases (82 active, 91 recovered, 2 deaths)**
- **Sioux County: 1 case (active)**

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.

For the most up to date information from the CDC, visit <https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/index.html>.

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.