



November 16, 2020

For immediate release

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**COVID requires the public to be caring citizens and to contribute to the solution for the sake of our communities and those we love**

**Panhandle total: 4,644; Active: 2,172; Recovered: 2,448; Deaths: 24**

As the Panhandle risk dial moves further into red at severe risk for COVID spread, residents are urged to slow the spread of COVID and help preserve hospital capacity.

This public health emergency requires the public to be caring citizens and to contribute to the solution for the sake of our communities and those we love.

Please continue all of the important precautions to protect you, your loved ones, and your community from the spread of COVID. Wear a mask when possible, stay at least six feet away from others, monitor for any symptoms, and stay home if you are not feeling well. Please practice these safety tips out of an abundance of kindness and humility for others.

As individuals and as communities we have the power to choose our actions in the COVID response and recovery process, and we can again reverse the trends if everyone comes together to take important steps in our daily lives to protect our communities.

- 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

Unified Command confirms 551 more cases of COVID in the Panhandle since last reporting on Thursday, November 12. Recoveries are available on the Panhandle dashboard at [www.pphd.org](http://www.pphd.org). The investigations are underway, all close contacts will be quarantined.

**All Ages: 551**

County	Cases
Banner	2
Box Butte	35

<b>Cheyenne</b>	<b>94</b>
<b>Dawes</b>	<b>17</b>
<b>Deuel</b>	<b>0</b>
<b>Garden</b>	<b>2</b>
<b>Grant</b>	<b>2</b>
<b>Kimball</b>	<b>14</b>
<b>Morrill</b>	<b>27</b>
<b>Scotts Bluff</b>	<b>341</b>
<b>Sheridan</b>	<b>15</b>
<b>Sioux</b>	<b>0</b>
<b>Under Investigation</b>	<b>2</b>

<b>Exposure Type</b>	
<b>Community</b>	<b>15%</b>
<b>Close Contact</b>	<b>16%</b>
<b>Travel</b>	<b>0%</b>
<b>Under Investigation</b>	<b>69%</b>

#### Testing information and access for the Panhandle area:

- You can sign up for the following free testing at [Testnebraska.com](https://www.testnebraska.com) or 402-207-9377:
  - Box Butte General Hospital in **Alliance**: Monday-Friday, 9-10am
    - 212 East 24th Street
  - **Chadron** Community Hospital: Mondays & Fridays, 7-9am
    - 821 Morehead Street (Old Hospital ER Entrance next to Wilson Park)
    - **Other testing opportunities for symptomatic patients may be available through the hospital as ordered by your Primary Care Practitioner, call the hospital at 747-2466 with questions.**
  - **Gordon** Memorial Hospital: Tuesdays & Thursdays, 2-4pm
  - Regional West Health Services in **Scottsbluff**: Tuesdays & Fridays, 1pm-4pm; Call 308-630-2100 for other testing opportunities for symptomatic patients.
  - **Sidney** Regional Medical Center: Tuesdays, Wednesdays, & Thursdays, 7-9:30am
- Community Action Health Center in **Gering**: Tuesdays, Wednesdays, & Thursdays, 7-8am
  - Testing is free, sign up at <https://tinyurl.com/yvdxr5mc>
- Alliance Community Pharmacy in **Alliance**: Monday-Friday, 7:30am-6pm; Saturday-Sunday, 9am-5pm
  - For people experiencing symptoms, same day results. Call 308-629-1045 for appointment, fee is \$125.
- Morrill County Community Hospital in **Bridgeport**: Daily
  - Call 308-262-1616 for testing, same day results, insurance can be billed.
- Contact your local hospital or clinic for information on testing access.

**March 2-November 16, 2020**

- **Total Tests Conducted: 23,658**
- **Positive: 4,644**
- **Cumulative Positivity Rate: 19.6%**
- **Recovered: 2,448**
- **Active Cases: 2,172**
- **Deaths: 24**
- **Active Hospitalizations: 78**
- **Total Cumulative Hospitalizations: 301**
- **Last week's positivity rate updated: 51.1%**
- **Last week's cases: 1,010**
- **Doubling time (October 28-November 15): 19 days**

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](http://www.pphd.org).