

NEWS RELEASE

COVID-19 Unified Command

A PARTNERSHIP



PANHANDLE PUBLIC HEALTH DISTRICT (308)262-5764 24/7
SCOTTS BLUFF COUNTY HEALTH DEPARTMENT (308)630-1580

**TO SELF REPORT OR IF THERE ARE QUESTIONS PLEASE CALL
BEFORE SEEKING MEDICAL CARE**

March 13, 2020

For immediate release

For more information, contact:

Kim Engel, Health Director: 308-760-2415

Change of Plans – Morrill Public Schools bus trip avoided high risk areas

Scottsbluff County Health Department and Panhandle Public Health District have reexamined the itinerary of the Morrill Public Schools trip to the East Coast. The route was changed before the participants entered areas of known community spread of COVID-19. Their time in New York was at Niagara Falls on March 10, which was not an area of community spread. In light of this information, and what we know at this time, participants will not be asked to self-quarantine.

We appreciate everyone's understanding and cooperation as we work at making these decisions.

We recommend that you call Panhandle Public Health District at 308-262-5764 if you develop a fever and symptoms of respiratory illness, such as cough or difficulty breathing, and have been in close contact with a person known to have COVID-19 or have recently traveled to an area with ongoing spread.

Residents are encouraged to review their family preparedness plans.

People can help protect themselves from COVID-19 and other respiratory infections by:

- **Washing hands often with soap and water** for at least 20 seconds. If soap and water aren't available, use an alcohol-based sanitizer.
- **Avoid touching your eyes, nose, and mouth** with unwashed hands.
- **Avoid close contact with sick people and stay home if you are sick.** Social distancing has been key in reducing spread.
- **Cover your nose and mouth with a tissue when you cough or sneeze** then throw the tissue in the trash.
- **Clean and disinfect frequently** touched objects and surfaces.

The CDC does NOT currently recommend the general public use facemasks. To learn more about COVID-19, go to <https://www.cdc.gov/covid19>. PPHD will keep you posted in this quickly changing environment.

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.