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For immediate release

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### Update on Schools

After consultation with COVID-19 Unified Command, it has been determined that all schools in the Nebraska Panhandle will be closed through Friday, May 1<sup>st</sup>, with the possibility of schools being closed for the remainder of the 2019/2020 school year. This decision will be re-evaluated as circumstances change, with parents and families updated accordingly. School closure may be extended as needed. This is a precautionary public health measure; there are currently no confirmed cases in the Panhandle; however, local health and school officials are monitoring the COVID-19 situation in Colorado, Wyoming, and South Dakota closely. School Superintendents met with Unified Command and determined this action would help prevent exposure to our area to flatten the curve and decrease the spread of disease.

Panhandle Public Health District will keep you posted in this quickly changing environment. We continue to monitor the unfolding COVID-19 epidemic to anticipate its impact on the Panhandle. We are working as a unified command with Region 21, 22, and 23 Emergency Managers, and Scotts Bluff County Health Department on this evolving situation. We will continue to communicate important updates to the public and our partners. The CDC is putting out updated guidance daily; for the most up to date information visit:

<https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/index.html>. To learn more about COVID-19, go to <https://www.cdc.gov/covid19>.

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).