



July 6, 2020

For immediate release

For more information, contact: Kim Engel, Director, 308-760-2415, kengel@pphd.org

**Droplets spread by speaking while masked or unmasked is a major difference
Thirteen more cases announced since last reporting on July 2; Panhandle total: 335, Active: 114, Recovered: 218, Deaths: 3**

Unmasked germs are pretty gross. Nebraska Medicine shows this in a recently shared video published by the New England Journal of Medicine. The video demonstrates fluid droplets using laser light scattering. Visualized droplets when someone is masked or unmasked is a major difference. The demonstration can be viewed here: <https://tinyurl.com/y844xb5x>.

Nebraska doctors are urging residents to wear a mask to slow the spread of COVID-19. Mask-wearing can be summed up in three points:

1. COVID-19 is spread by droplets.
2. Masks prevent droplets from spreading.
3. Limit the spread of droplets, and you limit the spread of COVID-19.

Testing opportunities for the week of July 6:

- Chadron Community Hospital: Mondays & Fridays, 7-9am
 - Testnebraska.com
- Community Action Health Center in Gering: Mondays, Wednesdays, & Fridays, 7-8am
 - <https://tinyurl.com/y7msahzq>
- Morrill County Community Hospital: Daily
 - Call for testing, insurance will be billed
- Contact your local hospital or clinic for information on testing access.

Unified Command confirms thirteen more cases of COVID-19 in the Panhandle since last reporting on July 2:

County	Demographics	Exposure Type
Kimball	Female in her 40s	Close Contact
Morrill	Male in his 30s	Close Contact
Morrill	Male in his 50s	Close Contact
Scotts Bluff	Female in her 20s	Close Contact
Scotts Bluff	Female in her 30s	Close Contact

Scotts Bluff	Female in her 40s	Travel
Scotts Bluff	Female in her 50s	Community Spread
Scotts Bluff	Female in her 70s	Close Contact
Scotts Bluff	Female in her 80s	Close Contact
Scotts Bluff	Male in his 20s	Community Spread
Scotts Bluff	Male in his 40s	Close Contact
Scotts Bluff	Male in his 80s	Close Contact
Sheridan	Male in his 40s	Close Contact

Close contact and exposure are 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.

Nineteen new recoveries: one in Cheyenne County, two in Kimball County, twelve in Morrill County, and four in Scotts Bluff County, brings the total recoveries to 218.

March 2-July 6, 2020

Total Tests Conducted: 5,620

Positive: 335

Cumulative Positivity Rate: 5.8%

Recovered: 218

Active Cases: 114

Active Hospitalizations: 1

Total Cumulative Hospitalizations: 33

Deaths: 3

- **Banner County: 2 case (1 active, 1 recovered)**
- **Box Butte County: 3 cases (recovered)**
- **Cheyenne County: 20 cases (3 active, 17 recovered)**
- **Dawes County: 4 cases (2 active, 2 recovered)**
- **Garden County: 4 cases (recovered)**
- **Kimball County: 13 cases (1 active, 12 recovered)**
- **Morrill County: 50 cases (24 active, 26 recovered)**
- **Scotts Bluff County: 225 cases (75 active, 147 recovered, 3 deaths)**
- **Sheridan County: 8 cases (active)**
- **Sioux County: 6 cases (recovered)**

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.