



August 3, 2020

For immediate release

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

Be sure kindness is included on your back-to-school checklist!

Panhandle total: 439, Active: 55, Recovered: 378, Deaths: 6

As important decisions are being made regarding school openings, everyone is keeping the safety of children and school staff at the forefront. Please keep your positivity and support strong by engaging with your local school and staying informed of their plans.

Staying knowledgeable for your family and planning your back-to-school checklist armed with the latest safety precautions is how individuals and families can do their part. Always resort to kindness whenever and wherever possible.

Unified Command confirms seven more cases of COVID-19 in the Panhandle since reporting last Friday:

Children 19 and under: 2		
County	Cases	Exposure Type
Scotts Bluff	2	Close Contact

Adults: 5		
County	Cases	Exposure Type
Scotts Bluff	3	Close Contact
Scotts Bluff	2	Community Spread

The investigations are complete, all close contacts will be quarantined and actively monitored twice daily for fever and respiratory symptoms by public health officials.

Unified Command confirms five more recoveries in the Panhandle:

Recovered: 5	
County	Total
Kimball	1
Scotts Bluff	4

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
 - **Chadron** Community Hospital: Mondays & Fridays, 7-9am
 - Collections are at 821 Morehead Street (Old Hospital ER Entrance next to Wilson Park)
 - **Gordon** Memorial Hospital: Tuesdays & Thursdays, 2-4pm
 - Regional West Health Services in **Scottsbluff**: Monday-Friday, Noon-4pm
 - **Sidney** Regional Medical Center: Tuesdays & Thursday, 7-9am
- Community Action Health Center in **Gering**: Mondays, Wednesdays, & Thursdays, 7-8am
 - Testing is free, sign up at <https://tinyurl.com/y7msahzq>
- Morrill County Community Hospital in **Bridgeport**: Daily
 - Call 308-262-1616 for testing, same day results, insurance will be billed
- Contact your local hospital or clinic for information on testing access.

March 2-August 3, 2020

- **Total Tests Conducted: 8,135**
- **Positive: 439**
- **Cumulative Positivity Rate: 5.4%**
- **Recovered: 378**
- **Active Cases: 55**
- **Deaths: 6**
- **Active Hospitalizations: 1**
- **Total Cumulative Hospitalizations: 45**

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.