



August 7, 2020

For immediate release

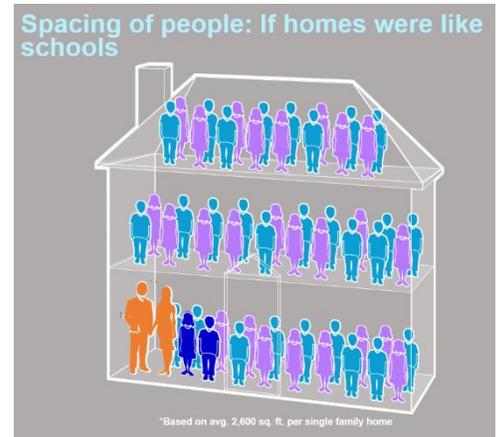
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**Schools have the highest person density in community settings  
Panhandle total: 451, Active: 40, Recovered: 405, Deaths: 6**

Another reason careful planning is important when bringing staff and students back to school is the per person density. Schools have the highest person density in community settings. Unified Command highly recommends face coverings in the green, and mandatory face coverings for all schools in yellow, orange, and red on the risk dial. This dial takes into account many data sources and factors and will continue to inform phases of increased school prevention strategies. The risk dial can be found at [www.pphd.org](http://www.pphd.org).

Person Density in Community Settings	
Environment	Avg Square Feet per Person
Single family home	600 sq. ft.
Long-Term Care	300 sq. ft.
Office workspace	150 sq. ft.
High school classroom	50 sq. ft.
Elementary school classroom	35 sq. ft.

\*Developed by Global Center for Health Security, UNMC



Unified Command confirms four more cases of COVID-19 in the Panhandle:

Children 19 and under: 1		
County	Cases	Exposure Type
Scotts Bluff	1	Close Contact

Adults: 3		
County	Cases	Exposure Type
Box Butte	1	Community Spread
Dawes	1	Community Spread
Scotts Bluff	1	Close Contact

The investigations are underway; all close contacts will be quarantined and actively monitored for symptoms by public health officials.

Unified Command confirms four more recoveries in the Panhandle.

<b>Recovered: 4</b>	
<b>County</b>	<b>Total</b>
<b>Dawes</b>	1
<b>Cheyenne</b>	1
<b>Scotts Bluff</b>	2

**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 7, 2020**

- **Total Tests Conducted: 8,823**
- **Positive: 451**
- **Cumulative Positivity Rate: 5.1%**
- **Recovered: 405**
- **Active Cases: 40**
- **Deaths: 6**
- **Active Hospitalizations: 0**
- **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](http://www.pphd.org).