



January 5, 2022

For immediate release

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

Panhandle COVID cases increasing

Omicron is now the dominant variant in Nebraska. The Panhandle has seen a drastic shift in COVID cases from a downward trend just before the holidays to a current increase. Individuals are encouraged to heed important precautions to prevent and slow the spread of COVID.

Vaccines remain the best public health measure to protect people from COVID, slow transmission, and reduce the likelihood of new variants emerging.

“We live in an incredible country with many freedoms and choices to keep ourselves, our families, our communities, and our country healthy and safe. As we enter another year in a currently heightened pandemic state, please exercise your right to get vaccinated. If you’ve been vaccinated, get boosted. Please do it now,” said Kim Engel, Panhandle Public Health District Director.

Everyone age 16 and older is recommended to get a COVID booster shot at least two months after a 1-dose vaccine, Johnson & Johnson, or at least six months after a 2-dose vaccine, Pfizer or Moderna.

COVID vaccine is widely available across the Panhandle and there is no charge.

- **Box Butte/Grant:** <https://tinyurl.com/25mwaapu> | [safeway.com](https://www.safeway.com)
 - *Walk-ins welcome*
 - Dave's Pharmacy Hemingford & Alliance, Monday-Friday, 8 AM - 5:30 PM
 - Alliance Community Pharmacy, Monday-Friday, 7:30 AM - 6 PM
- **Cheyenne/Deuel:** <https://tinyurl.com/5b5uac8p> | [walmart.com](https://www.walmart.com) | [safeway.com](https://www.safeway.com)
 - December 29, Big Springs at the Fire Hall 10:30AM - 12:30 PM | Chappell at the Fire Hall 1:30 - 3:30 PM Vaccinating 5+
- **Dawes/Sioux:** <https://tinyurl.com/x5d5nnbn> | [walmart.com](https://www.walmart.com) | [safeway.com](https://www.safeway.com)
 - *Walk-ins welcome*
 - Western Community Health Resources, Monday-Friday, 12:30 PM - 1:30 PM
 - Call 308-432-8979 to schedule an appointment outside these hours.
- **Garden:** To schedule an appointment, call (308) 772-3283.
- **Kimball:** <https://tinyurl.com/d2u8txrs>
 - *Walk-ins welcome*

- Kimball Health Services, Monday-Friday, 8 AM - 4:30 PM
- **Morrill:** <https://tinyurl.com/sb8mvumm>
 - **Walk-ins welcome**
 - Morrill County Hospital Clinic (Bridgeport), Thursdays, 8 AM - 4:30 PM call 308-262-1755
 - Chimney Rock Medical Center (Bayard), Tuesdays, 8 AM - 4:30 PM call 308-586-1717
- **Sheridan:** <https://tinyurl.com/cvrmkv38>
 - **Walk-ins welcome**
 - Gordon Rural Health Clinic, Monday-Friday, 8:30 AM - 11:30 AM and 1 PM - 4 PM
- **Scotts Bluff/Banner:** <https://tinyurl.com/hkw7wk2p> | walmart.com | safeway.com | walgreens.com
 - **Walk-ins welcome**
 - Gering CAPWN Health Center, Monday-Friday, 9 AM-12 PM & 1 PM-4 PM
 - Scottsbluff County Immunization Clinic, Monday-Friday, 9:30 AM-5:30 PM

If you are homebound or have a condition that makes it hard for you to access a COVID vaccine, Call Vianey Zitterkopf, RN at 308-430-8390 or Janet Felix, LPN at 308-672-4653.

People who are fully COVID vaccinated will not be required to quarantine due to close contact. If you have lost your COVID vaccine card, go to <https://tinyurl.com/2zh7uhhu>.

Unified Command confirms 291 more cases of COVID in the Panhandle.

All Ages: 291	
Region	Cases
Banner	1
Box Butte	23
Cheyenne	44
Dawes	25
Deuel	5
Garden	7
Grant	1
Kimball	3
Morrill	12
Scotts Bluff	161
Sheridan	9
Sioux	0

March 2, 2020-January 5, 2021

- **Positive: 15,252**
- **Last week's cases: (cases/100,000): 337.3**
- **Last 7 day cases: 291**
- **Last week's positivity rate: 10.5%**

- **Deaths: 252**
- **Deaths Pending Verification: 29**
- **Active Hospitalizations: 13**
- **Total Cumulative Hospitalizations: 777**

Current COVID testing access can be found at <http://pphd.org/COVID-19.html>.

The Panhandle COVID dashboard is available at www.pphd.org. The state COVID dashboard is available at <https://tinyurl.com/ufj9fcuf>. For the most up to date information from the CDC, visit <https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/index.html>.

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.

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.