



October 26, 2020

For immediate release

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Total cases doubled in the past 22 days, first death in Dawes County brings Panhandle total to 12

Panhandle total: 1,957; Active: 709; Recovered: 1,236; Deaths: 12

A male in his 70s is the first COVID-related death in Dawes County, this brings the total deaths in the Panhandle to 12.

“We are deeply saddened to hear of his death. We wish his family and friends peace and comfort during their time of loss,” expressed Kim Engel, Panhandle Public Health District Director.

The current doubling rate for cases is 22 days. This means from October 4-October 26, 2020, there were 965 cases in the Panhandle. The first case in the Panhandle was on March 29, 2020, from this date to October 4, 2020 is 189 days and was the reported equivalent of cases in the previous 22 days.

Please continue all of the important precautions to protect you, your loved ones, and your community from the spread of COVID. Wear a mask when possible, stay at least six feet away from others, monitor for any symptoms, and stay home if you are not feeling well. Please practice these safety tips out of an abundance of kindness and humility for others.

Unified Command confirms 326 more cases of COVID in the Panhandle since last reporting on Thursday, October 22. The investigations are underway, all close contacts will be quarantined.

Children 19 & Under: 29

County	Cases
Box Butte	9
Cheyenne	3
Dawes	4
Kimball	1
Morrill	1
Scotts Bluff	10
Sheridan	1

Adults: 240

County	Cases
Banner	1
Box Butte	50
Cheyenne	15
Dawes	35
Garden	5
Kimball	4
Morrill	11
Scotts Bluff	102
Sheridan	16
Sioux	1

Under Investigation: 57

County	Cases
Box Butte	1
Scotts Bluff	56

Exposure Type

Community	26%
Close Contact	29%
Travel	0%
Under Investigation	45%

Unified Command confirms 150 more recoveries in the Panhandle.

Recovered: 150

County	Cases
Banner	0
Box Butte	37
Cheyenne	13
Dawes	9
Deuel	3
Garden	2
Grant	1
Kimball	12
Morrill	9
Scotts Bluff	48

Sheridan	16
Sioux	0

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
 - Ambulance Bay on the east side of the emergency department, watch for the green arrows
 - **Chadron** Community Hospital: Mondays & Fridays, 7-9am
 - Collections are at 821 Morehead Street (Old Hospital ER Entrance next to Wilson Park)
 - **Other testing opportunities for symptomatic patients may be available through the hospital as ordered by your Primary Care Practitioner, call the hospital at 747-2466 with questions.**
 - **Gordon** Memorial Hospital: Tuesdays & Thursdays, 2-4pm
 - Regional West Health Services in **Scottsbluff**: Mondays & Fridays, Noon-4pm; Wednesdays, 2-6pm
 - **Sidney** Regional Medical Center: Tuesdays & Thursday, 7-9am
- Community Action Health Center in **Gering**: Tuesdays, Wednesdays, & Thursdays, 7-8am
 - Testing is free, sign up at <https://tinyurl.com/yydxr5mc>
- Alliance Community Pharmacy in **Alliance**: Monday-Friday, 7:30am-6pm; Saturday-Sunday, 9am-5pm
 - For people experiencing symptoms, same day results. Call 308-629-1045 for appointment, fee is \$105.
- Morrill County Community Hospital in **Bridgeport**: Daily
 - Call 308-262-1616 for testing, same day results, insurance can be billed.
- Contact your local hospital or clinic for information on testing access.

March 2-October 26, 2020

- **Total Tests Conducted: 18,750**
- **Positive: 1,957**
- **Cumulative Positivity Rate: 10.2%**
- **Recovered: 1,236**
- **Active Cases: 709**
- **Deaths: 12**
- **Active Hospitalizations: 33**
- **Total Cumulative Hospitalizations: 133**

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.