



November 9, 2020

For immediate release

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

**Three additional COVID deaths reported brings total Panhandle deaths to 24
Panhandle total: 4,098; Active: 1,938; Recovered: 2,136; Deaths: 24**

Three more COVID deaths are being reported. A Box Butte County male in his 80s, a Dawes County female in her 80s, and a Grant County male in his 90s have all recently passed. This brings the total deaths in the Panhandle to 24.

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

Public health is continuing to prioritize COVID cases and close contacts and asks the community to do their part.

If you are confirmed positive for COVID, isolate from everyone and notify your close contacts (less than 6 feet for 15 or more minutes while you were infectious) to tell them to self-quarantine immediately to protect others and limit the spread of sickness. This may include household members, close friends, coworkers, and others who you may have been close to while infected.

It is important for positive cases to self-isolate at home unless isolated in a healthcare facility, until at least ten days have passed since the date of your positive test or at least ten days have passed since the onset of your symptoms, your symptoms have improved, and you have been fever-free for at least 24 hours without the use of fever-reducing medication.

Unified Command confirms 455 more cases of COVID in the Panhandle and 172 recoveries since last reporting on Monday, November 9. The investigations are underway, all close contacts will be quarantined.

All Ages: 455		Recovered: 172	
County	Cases	County	Cases
Banner	0	Banner	0
Box Butte	37	Box Butte	24
Cheyenne	37	Cheyenne	27
Dawes	25	Dawes	29
Deuel	4	Deuel	1

Garden	6	Garden	2
Grant	2	Grant	1
Kimball	27	Kimball	7
Morrill	31	Morrill	23
Scotts Bluff	271	Scotts Bluff	50
Sheridan	11	Sheridan	8
Sioux	1	Sioux	0
Under Investigation	3		

Exposure Type	
Community	17%
Close Contact	13%
Travel	0%
Under Investigation	70%

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
 - 212 East 24th Street
 - **Chadron** Community Hospital: Mondays & Fridays, 7-9am
 - 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**: Tuesdays & Fridays, 1pm-4pm; Call 308-630-2100 for other testing opportunities for symptomatic patients.
 - **Sidney** Regional Medical Center: Tuesdays, Wednesdays, & Thursdays, 7-9:30am
- Community Action Health Center in **Gering**: Tuesdays, Wednesdays, & Thursdays, 7-8am
 - Testing is free, sign up at <https://tinyurl.com/ydxdx5mc>
- 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 \$125.
- 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-November 12, 2020

- **Total Tests Conducted: 23,032**
- **Positive: 4,098**

- **Cumulative Positivity Rate: 17.8%**
- **Recovered: 2,136**
- **Active Cases: 1,938**
- **Deaths: 24**
- **Active Hospitalizations: 76**
- **Total Cumulative Hospitalizations: 283**
- **Last week's positivity rate updated: 62.4%**
- **Doubling time (October 26-November 11): 16 days**

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.