



December 1, 2021

For immediate release

For more information, contact: Kim Engel, Director, 308-760-2415, [kengel@pphd.org](mailto:kengel@pphd.org)

### **Omicron variant emphasizes the importance of vaccination and boosters**

The Omicron variant is classified as a highly transmissible variant of concern and was first identified in South Africa last week. The first known case has been confirmed in the United States today.

The recent emergence of the Omicron variant further emphasizes the importance of vaccination and boosters. All FDA-approved or authorized vaccines are expected to be effective against severe illness, hospitalizations, and deaths.

For anyone age 5 and older, please get vaccinated. Everyone age 18 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 (Pfizer 2 PM- 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)
  - *Walk-ins welcome*
  - During COVID clinic hours visit <https://tinyurl.com/5b5uac8p> for days and hours
- **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
- **Garden:** To schedule an appointment visit [vaccinate.ne.gov](https://vaccinate.ne.gov) - provider will call you
  - *Walk-ins welcome*
  - Regional West Garden County Clinic Front Desk, Monday-Friday, 8 AM - 5 PM
- **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, Wednesdays, 8 AM - 4 PM
- **Sheridan:** <https://tinyurl.com/cvrmkv38>
  - **Walk-ins welcome**
  - Gordon Rural Health Clinic, Monday-Friday, 8:30 AM- 9:30 AM
- **Scotts Bluff/Banner:** <https://tinyurl.com/hkw7wk2p> | [walmart.com](https://walmart.com) | [safeway.com](https://safeway.com) | [walgreens.com](https://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 144 more cases of COVID in the Panhandle.

| <b>All Ages: 144</b> |              |
|----------------------|--------------|
| <b>Region</b>        | <b>Cases</b> |
| Banner               | 1            |
| Box Butte            | 19           |
| Cheyenne             | 23           |
| Dawes                | 6            |
| Deuel                | 0            |
| Garden               | 7            |
| Grant                | 0            |
| Kimball              | 2            |
| Morrill              | 22           |
| Scotts Bluff         | 61           |
| Sheridan             | 3            |
| Sioux                | 0            |

**March 2, 2020-December 1, 2021**

- **Positive: 14,365**
- **Last week's cases: (cases/100,000): 166.9**
- **Last 7 day cases: 144**
- **Last week's positivity rate: 7.9%**
- **Deaths: 238**
- **Deaths Pending Verification: 7**
- **Active Hospitalizations: 24**
- **Total Cumulative Hospitalizations: 750**

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

The Panhandle COVID dashboard is available at [www.pphd.org](http://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](http://www.pphd.org).