



May 8, 2020

For immediate release

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

**Five new COVID-19 cases, first positive case in Dawes County  
Panhandle total positive count 73**

Unified Command confirms five new cases for COVID-19 in the Panhandle and the first positive case in Dawes County. The case details are as follows:

County	Demographics	Exposure Type
Dawes County	Male in his 30s	Close contact of a previously positive case
Morrill County	Male in his 70s	Close contact of a previously positive case
Morrill County	Female in her 40s	Close contact of a previously positive case
Scotts Bluff County	Male in his teens	Close contact of a previously positive case
Scotts Bluff County	Female in her teens	Close contact of a previously positive case

The investigation continues, all close contacts in these cases will be quarantined and actively monitored twice daily for fever and respiratory symptoms by public health officials.

There’s still time to sign up for free, drive-thru, COVID-19 testing this weekend. Please use the following link: <https://sugeni.us/cExR>. Time slots are available 48 hours before the testing date. If you need assistance signing up, please call 308-262-5764.

It will be offered in the following locations:

- **Saturday, May 9**
  - Sidney 8:30a-11a, 2103 Illinois Street: Old Wheatbelt Public Power District building
  - Oshkosh 2:30p-5p, 115 West 1st Street: City building (South of old fire hall)
- **Sunday, May 10**
  - Bridgeport 9a-11:30a, 705 M Street: 21st Century Training Center
  - Alliance 2p-4:30p, 1621 E Kansas St: WNCC Powerline Construction & Maintenance Lab
- **Monday, May 11**

- Chadron 9a-11:30a, 355 E Norfolk Avenue: Dawes County Fairground Building
- Gordon 2p-4:30p, 1882 US Hwy 20: Gordon Airport (East of town)

### March 2-May 8, 2020

**Positive: 73**

**Recovered: 38**

- **Box Butte County: 1 case**
- **Cheyenne County: 8 cases**

Five have recovered and are out of isolation

- **Dawes County: 1 case**
- **Kimball County: 10 Cases**

10 have recovered and are out of isolation

- **Morrill County: 9 Cases**

One case has recovered and is out of isolation

- **Scotts Bluff County: 44 Cases**

22 have recovered and are out of isolation

Throughout the month of May, we are reminding people to respect the following to keep Nebraska healthy:

- **Wear a mask when possible.**
- **Wash your hands frequently.** Wash your hands with soap for at least 20 seconds and sanitize when available.
- **Monitor your symptoms.** If you experience a cough, fever, shortness of breath, headache, sore throat, chills, muscle pain, or loss of taste or smell call your doctor, clinic, or our 24/7 line at 308-262-5764 before going.
- **Socially distance in public and at work.** Use the six-foot rule as much as possible.
- **Only sit with people from your household when at church.** Stay six feet from other households.
- **Stay home.** Do not take unnecessary trips outside the home. Respect the ten-person limit. Non-essential out-of-state travel is discouraged.
- **Shop alone and only shop once a week.** Do not take family with you.
- **Help kids follow social distancing.** Play at home. No group sports. And no playgrounds.
- **Help seniors stay at home by shopping for them.** Do not visit long-term care facilities.
- **Exercise daily** at home or with an appropriately socially-distanced activity.

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).