



July 23, 2020

For immediate release

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Negative test does not mean a person can stop quarantining
Panhandle total: 404, Active: 74, Recovered: 325, Deaths: 5

When a person has been exposed or identified as a close contact to COVID-19, even if they get tested and it is negative, they still must quarantine for the 14-day timeframe. Testing is considered a “point-in-time test” meaning, they were only negative at that particular point, but they could still develop symptoms in the two to 14 day timeframe.

Unified Command confirms seven more cases of COVID-19 in the Panhandle:

County	Demographics	Exposure Type
Box Butte	Female in her 60s	Community Spread
Cheyenne	Female in her 60s	Close Contact
Cheyenne	Female in her 80s	Close Contact
Scotts Bluff	Female in her teens	Close Contact
Scotts Bluff	Female in her 40s	Close Contact
Scotts Bluff	Female in her 50s	Close Contact
Sheridan	Female in her 80s	Unknown

The investigations are underway, all close contacts will be quarantined and actively monitored twice daily for fever and respiratory symptoms by public health officials.

Seven new recoveries: one in Morrill County and six in Scotts Bluff County, brings the total recoveries to 325.

Testing opportunities for the week of July 20:

- Chadron Community Hospital: Mondays & Fridays, 7-9am
 - Testnebraska.com
 - Collections are at 821 Morehead Street (Old Hospital ER Entrance next to Wilson Park)
- Community Action Health Center in Gering: Mondays, Wednesdays, & Thursdays, 7-8am
 - <https://tinyurl.com/y7msahzq>
- Morrill County Community Hospital: Daily
 - Call for testing, same day results, insurance will be billed

- Regional West Health Services: Monday-Friday, Noon-4pm
 - [Testnebraska.com](https://www.testnebraska.com)
 - This site is not currently showing up on the testing locations, but it is showing up as a testing option when completing the assessment.
- Increased testing through Test Nebraska to be coming soon to Alliance, Gordon, and Sidney!
- Contact your local hospital or clinic for information on testing access.

March 2-July 23, 2020

Total Tests Conducted: 7,092

Positive: 404

Cumulative Positivity Rate: 5.6%

Recovered: 325

Active Cases: 74

Active Hospitalizations: 2

Total Cumulative Hospitalizations: 38

Deaths: 5

- **Banner County: 2 cases (recovered)**
- **Box Butte County: 9 cases (5 active, 4 recovered)**
- **Cheyenne County: 24 cases (2 active, 22 recovered)**
- **Dawes County: 4 cases (recovered)**
- **Deuel County: 1 case (recovered)**
- **Garden County: 4 cases (recovered)**
- **Kimball County: 17 cases (2 active, 15 recovered)**
- **Morrill County: 56 cases (4 active, 52 recovered)**
- **Scotts Bluff County: 272 cases (60 active, 207 recovered, 5 deaths)**
- **Sheridan County: 9 cases (1 active, 8 recovered)**
- **Sioux County: 6 cases (recovered)**

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.