



July 31, 2020

For immediate release

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Panhandle will remain in phase three of the Governor’s Directed Health Measure through August

Panhandle total: 432, Active: 53, Recovered: 373, Deaths: 6

The Panhandle area will remain in phase three of the Governor’s Directed Health Measure through at least August 31. This applies to the following counties: Banner, Box Butte, Cheyenne, Dawes, Deuel, Garden, Grant, Kimball, Morrill, Scotts Bluff, Sheridan, and Sioux. The full document can be viewed at <http://pphd.org/COVID-19.html>.

Please continue taking important prevention over weekend activities, events, and fairs.

- Wear a mask when you cannot stay six feet away from others.
- Wash or sanitize your hands frequently.
- Do not attend events if you are experiencing any symptoms.
- If you are at risk for developing serious complications from COVID-19, please use extra caution.

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

County	Demographics	Exposure Type
Cheyenne	Female in her 50s	Community Spread
Scotts Bluff	Female in her 40s	Close Contact
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Scotts Bluff	Female in her 50s	Community Spread

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

Fourteen new recoveries, one in Box Butte and thirteen in Scotts Bluff, brings the total recoveries to 373.

Testing information and access for the Panhandle area:

- You can sign up for the following free testing at Testnebraska.com or 402-207-9377:
 - Box Butte General Hospital in **Alliance** starting on August 3: Monday-Friday, 9-10am
 - **Chadron** Community Hospital: Mondays & Fridays, 7-9am

- Collections are at 821 Morehead Street (Old Hospital ER Entrance next to Wilson Park)
 - **Gordon** Memorial Hospital: Tuesdays & Thursdays, 2-4pm
 - Regional West Health Services in **Scottsbluff**: Monday-Friday, Noon-4pm
 - **Sidney** Regional Medical Center starting on August 4: Tuesdays & Thursday, 7-9am
- Community Action Health Center in **Gering**: Mondays, Wednesdays, & Thursdays, 7-8am
 - Testing is free, sign up at <https://tinyurl.com/y7msahzq>
- Morrill County Community Hospital in **Bridgeport**: Daily
 - Call 308-262-1616 for testing, same day results, insurance will be billed
- Contact your local hospital or clinic for information on testing access.

March 2-July 31, 2020

Total Tests Conducted: 7,873

Positive: 432

Cumulative Positivity Rate: 5.4%

Recovered: 373

Active Cases: 53

Active Hospitalizations: 2

Total Cumulative Hospitalizations: 45

Deaths: 6

- **Banner County: 2 cases (recovered)**
- **Box Butte County: 10 cases (recovered)**
- **Cheyenne County: 28 cases (4 active, 24 recovered)**
- **Dawes County: 8 cases (4 active, 4 recovered)**
- **Deuel County: 1 case (recovered)**
- **Garden County: 4 cases (recovered)**
- **Kimball County: 17 cases (1 active, 16 recovered)**
- **Morrill County: 59 cases (4 active, 55 recovered)**
- **Scotts Bluff County: 288 cases (40 active, 242 recovered, 6 deaths)**
- **Sheridan County: 9 cases (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.