



August 10, 2021

For immediate release

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Gering resident and Scotts Bluff County Commissioner encourages people to reach out to someone they have a personal relationship and trust to discuss the COVID vaccine

Gering resident and Scotts Bluff County Commissioner Charlie Knapper shared on the Tuesday briefing how he made the decision to recently get COVID vaccinated. Self-admitting he’s a skeptic and likes to remain objective by informing himself with as many facts and information as possible.

“I’ve been skeptical from day one of everything. I scoured every piece of information I could get my hands on, listening to briefings, catching the nightly and 24-hour news on my phone, listening to news from across the spectrum, and I couldn’t make up my own mind. I was becoming more torn and internally conflicted so I reached out to a childhood friend,” Knapper said.

Knapper’s friend, now a doctor on the west coast with similar views, helped him arrive at his recent decision.

“We went to school together, played ball together, and lifeguarded together in the summer. I knew I could trust him. He’s the doctor, I’m the IT nerd. We agree on everything from parenting to who should take snaps as Nebraska’s quarterback and I decided I was going to trust him,” shared Knapper.

He said an upcoming trip to Florida in a couple of weeks was also a factor and his thoughts about his own kids.

“There are some concerning stories with long haul COVID symptoms of brain lesions and other scary things and I didn’t want those to weigh on my decision,” Knapper added.

A fellow coworker encouraged him to publicly share his choice to get vaccinated and he personally wanted to possibly help someone else make the decision.

Knapper encourages anyone who is skeptical and wants to remain objective to reach out to someone they trust, someone they have a personal relationship with, and ask them how they arrived at their decision.

Vaccinations have protection against all known variants, including Delta. For any youth age 12 and older preparing to return to school, make sure getting your COVID vaccine is on the list. COVID vaccine is available across the Panhandle. There is no charge for the vaccine.

- **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://www.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://www.walmart.com) | [safeway.com](https://www.safeway.com) | [walgreens.com](https://www.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, 9:40 AM-12:30 PM & 1:30 PM-5:30 PM
 - Morrill Clinic, Morrill, June 30, July 21, August 11, September 1, 5:30 PM-6:30 PM

If you are homebound or have a condition that makes it hard for you to access a COVID vaccine, please call Kim Engel at 308-633-2866 ext 101.

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 63 more cases of COVID in the Panhandle since last reporting on Monday, August 2.

All Ages: 63

County	Cases
Scotts Bluff	19
Greater Panhandle	44

Exposure Type

Community	48%
Close Contact	38%
Travel	0%
Under Investigation	14%

March 2, 2020-August 10, 2021

- Total Tests Conducted: 41,303
- Positive: 9,450
- Last 14 days (active) cases: 84
- Last week's cases: 63
- Last week's positivity rate: 19.2%
- Deaths: 198
- Deaths Pending Verification: 5
- Active Hospitalizations: 8
- Total Cumulative Hospitalizations: 565

While the pandemic is not over, we would like to evaluate our efforts for the response January 2020-June 2021. Please take a moment to complete this evaluation:

<https://unmcredcap.unmc.edu/redcap/surveys/?s=RR8WCNFD9T>.

Nebraska ended the state testing program Test Nebraska on July 18, 2021. Current COVID testing access can be found at <http://pphd.org/COVID-19.html>.

The Panhandle COVID dashboard is updated on Mondays & Thursdays by 4:30 pm MT and available at www.pphd.org. 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.