



August 30, 2021

For immediate release

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Nebraska data shows the role of COVID vaccinations for protection from severe illness, hospitalization, and death

Statewide data shared on the Monday briefing continues to show how important COVID vaccinations are in terms of overall protection from severe illness, hospitalization, and death. The data was compiled by Matt Donahue, MD, Acting State Epidemiologist.

From January 1, 2021 to August 21, 2021, Nebraska data for not fully vaccinated individuals made up 94.5% of cases, 95.2% of hospitalizations, and 96% of deaths. This is confirming poor outcomes for COVID remain overwhelmingly among unvaccinated individuals.

Case rates continue diverging for vaccinated and not fully vaccinated individuals. A chart showing not fully vaccinated vs. vaccine breakthrough case rates for ages overall in Nebraska shows cases remain higher and are increasing at a faster rate among not fully vaccinated individuals.

The same is true for hospitalizations, a chart showing a comparison among not fully vaccinated vs. vaccine breakthrough hospitalization rates shows hospitalizations remain lower among vaccinated individuals when compared with not fully vaccinated individuals for ages overall in Nebraska.

A final chart shared on the briefing was on vaccine effectiveness for mild infection and hospitalizations. Data was compared from the pre-Delta variant, considered January 1- June 30, 2021, vs. when greater than 50% of cases match the Delta variant, considered July 1-August 21, 2021. Vaccine effectiveness is reduced since the arrival of Delta, but the vaccine is still working very well at protecting against severe outcomes. This has and remains the goal overall in the COVID response effort.

“We are hearing reports from area vaccine providers about increasing interest in COVID vaccines among Panhandle residents, especially with the Pfizer FDA full approval announcement. This has been encouraging but we can’t stress enough for people to not wait, it’s widely available and is showing to be one of the best protections,” said Kim Engel, Health Director at Panhandle Public Health District.

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

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 215 more cases of COVID in the Panhandle since last reporting on Monday, August 23.

All Ages: 215

County	Cases
Scotts Bluff	89
Greater Panhandle	126

Exposure Type	
Community	38%
Close Contact	41%
Travel	0%
Under Investigation	21%

March 2, 2020-August 30, 2021

- **Total Tests Conducted: 45,603**
- **Positive: 9,935**
- **Last 14 days (active) cases: 320**
- **Last week's cases: 206**
- **Last week's positivity rate: 6.8%**
- **Deaths: 199**
- **Deaths Pending Verification: 5**
- **Active Hospitalizations: 11**
- **Total Cumulative Hospitalizations: 593**

Avoid the Three Cs:

- Avoid Crowded Places – Avoid gathering in groups where you cannot maintain 6-feet of distance from others
- Avoid Close Contact – Wear a mask over your nose and mouth or maintain 6-foot distance when you are spending more than 15 total minutes with people you don't live with
- Avoid Confined Spaces – Avoid enclosed spaces with poor ventilation

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.