



September 24, 2020

For immediate release

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**We all play a part to ensure our loved ones, friends, and neighbors have what they need to feel safe and supported during COVID**

**Panhandle total: 845, Active: 93, Recovered: 743, Deaths: 9**

In our Panhandle communities, we all play a part to ensure our loved ones, friends, and neighbors have what they need to feel safe and supported during COVID. Even though direct contact isn't possible when someone has been confirmed COVID positive, it doesn't mean we can't still help with their healing.

When a person is isolating at home due to COVID, they are staying home and away from others to heal but also not spread the virus. They need our critical support to recover physically and mentally. Even small steps to help each other are an important reminder of how we can all get through it together.

Ways we can safely support others in our community when they are recovering from the COVID virus:

- Ask if you can leave groceries or a meal on their porch.
- Drop off books, crossword puzzles, coloring books, or other items to help pass the time.
- Ask if you can run a simple errand or complete a task for them like mowing their yard.
- Schedule time for a virtual chat or phone call to check in on them or send them a text whenever you can to let them know you support them and wish them well with their recovery.
- Leave a note on their door or window sharing encouraging words.
- Understand the COVID recovery criteria\* and once a disease investigator has confirmed the persons' recovery status, they are able to go out and about safely without concern for spreading the virus. They are no longer contagious and need your support now more than ever by listening to their experience and practicing kindness.

\*A person is considered recovered from COVID after they have reached the following criteria and have been contacted by a disease investigator to confirm recovery status:

- **No fever for at least 24 hours without the use of fever-reducing medication; AND,**
- **Other symptoms have improved; AND,**
- **At least 10 days have passed since symptoms first appeared.**

Unified Command confirms 35 more cases of COVID in the Panhandle since last reporting on Monday, September 21. The investigations are underway, all close contacts will be quarantined and actively monitored for symptoms by public health officials.

Children 19 and under: 3		
County	Cases	Exposure Type
Box Butte	1	Close Contact
Dawes	1	Close Contact
Scotts Bluff	1	Close Contact

Adults: 32		
County	Cases	Exposure Type
Box Butte	4	Close Contact
Box Butte	9	Community Spread
Box Butte	3	Unknown
Cheyenne	1	Community Spread
Dawes	1	Close Contact
Dawes	5	Community Spread
Morrill	1	Close Contact
Scotts Bluff	2	Close Contact
Scotts Bluff	5	Community Spread
Sheridan	1	Community Spread

Unified Command confirms 27 more recoveries in the Panhandle:

Recovered: 27	
County	Total
Box Butte	6
Cheyenne	2
Dawes	5
Morrill	4
Scotts Bluff	7
Sheridan	3

**Testing information and access for the Panhandle area:**

- You can sign up for the following free testing at [Testnebraska.com](http://Testnebraska.com) or 402-207-9377:
  - Box Butte General Hospital in **Alliance**: Monday-Friday, 9-10am
    - Ambulance Bay on the east side of the emergency department, watch for the green arrows
  - **Chadron** Community Hospital: Mondays & Fridays, 7-9am
    - Collections are at 821 Morehead Street (Old Hospital ER Entrance next to Wilson Park)

- **Other testing opportunities for symptomatic patients may be available through the hospital as ordered by your Primary Care Practitioner, call the hospital at 747-2466 with questions.**
    - **Gordon** Memorial Hospital: Tuesdays & Thursdays, 2-4pm
    - Regional West Health Services in **Scottsbluff**: Mondays & Fridays, Noon-4pm; Wednesdays, 2-6pm
    - **Sidney** Regional Medical Center: Tuesdays & Thursday, 7-9am
- Community Action Health Center in **Gering**: Mondays, Wednesdays, & Thursdays, 7-8am
  - Testing is free, sign up at <https://tinyurl.com/yydxr5mc>
- Morrill County Community Hospital in **Bridgeport**: Daily
  - Call 308-262-1616 for testing, same day results
- Contact your local hospital or clinic for information on testing access.

### **March 2-September 24, 2020**

- **Total Tests Conducted: 13,882**
- **Positive: 845**
- **Cumulative Positivity Rate: 6.1%**
- **Recovered: 743**
- **Active Cases: 93**
- **Deaths: 9**
- **Active Hospitalizations: 3**
- **Total Cumulative Hospitalizations: 82**

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).