



January 4, 2021

For immediate release

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Panhandle vaccine reminder: Anyone 75 and older and interested, encouraged to call or register online
Ivermectin not recommended for use to prevent or treat COVID

Vaccine reminder: Anyone 75 and older and interested in getting a COVID vaccine, please call 308-262-5764 or 308-633-2866 ext. 101 and leave a message with your name, date of birth, county, and phone number. The form can also be completed at <https://tinyurl.com/ycpxzr5d>. This will put you on the list and you will be called when vaccines are available. It may be several weeks.

To date, 2,108 people in the eligible populations have received the COVID vaccine in the Panhandle. This number will continue to increase with each weekly distribution to the eligible populations at the corresponding times.

There are COVID treatments proven to work, one being monoclonal antibody treatment (Bamlanivimab or bam). This is available at long-term care facilities and for the general population. It has been shown to have a 70% reduction in hospitalization and improved symptoms.

The infusion takes about three hours, and patients will be charged an outpatient administration fee but not charged for the medication. Improvements can be seen anywhere from one to three days after treatment. However, this does not shorten the length of time needed to stay isolated.

Ivermectin is a common drug with livestock and horses in the form of creams or oral drugs. For humans, it can be prescribed for use as an antiparasitic drug or topical cream.

While there are approved uses for ivermectin in people and animals, it should not be used to prevent or treat COVID. This can cause serious harm including facial/limb swelling, cardiac issues, neurologic adverse events, liver injury, and hospitalizations.

No medicine to treat or prevent COVID should be taken unless prescribed by your healthcare provider and acquired from legitimate sources. Randomized Controlled Trials (RCTs) are ongoing regarding the use of ivermectin. These will determine if it works or not and is safe for people.

FDA FAQ regarding COVID and ivermectin: <https://tinyurl.com/y3u9mn2b>.

Six additional COVID-related deaths in the Panhandle are being reported. This brings the total deaths in the Panhandle to 120. The deaths are being announced as follows:

- Cheyenne County
 - Female in her 70s
 - Male in his 70s
- Garden County male in his 80s
- Kimball County male in his 70s
- Morrill County female in her 80s
- Sheridan County female in her 80s

“We share our deepest condolences with the friends and loved ones in the loss of our fellow Panhandle residents and wish you moments of peace and comfort,” said Kim Engel, Panhandle Public Health District Director.

Unified Command confirms 213 more cases of COVID in the Panhandle since last reporting on Monday, December 28. The investigations are underway, all close contacts will be quarantined.

All Ages: 213

County	Cases
Banner	1
Box Butte	25
Cheyenne	42
Dawes	13
Deuel	6
Garden	7
Grant	0
Kimball	18
Morrill	19
Scotts Bluff	63
Sheridan	17
Sioux	1
Under investigation	1

Exposure Type

Community	33%
Close Contact	35%
Travel	0%

Under Investigation 32%

March 2, 2020-January 4, 2021

- **Total Tests Conducted: 30,617**
- **Positive: 7,740**
- **Last 14 days (active) cases: 382**
- **Last week's cases: 209**
- **Last week's positivity rate: 27.5%**
- **Deaths: 120**
- **Active Hospitalizations: 21**
- **Total Cumulative Hospitalizations: 471**
- **Doubling time (November 9, 2020-January 3, 2021): 55 days**

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 www.pphd.org.

The Panhandle COVID dashboard is updated weekdays at 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.