

NEWS RELEASE

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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COVID Updates in Southwest Nebraska

Southwest Nebraska Public Health Department (SWNPHD) received 800 doses of Moderna COVID-19 vaccine and 100 doses of J&J vaccine in the last two weeks, which brings the total Moderna distribution to 7,300 doses for southwest Nebraska. SWNPHD does NOT anticipate getting additional doses of the J&J in the near future.

SWNPHD and six local hospitals in the health district have been joined by seven area pharmacies and Red Willow County Health that are now able to give COVID vaccines. **The focus of vaccination has been opened to anyone 50 years and older.** Tiers Phase 1A and Phase 1B have been completed but will continue to be eligible with vaccine availability.

The health district continues to utilize vaccinate.ne.gov as the official waiting list for the nine-county health district. There is NO waiting list for one vaccine versus another vaccine. The list is then distributed to those assisting with administration of vaccine. If you do not have computer access, please call 308-345-4223 to get on the waiting list. The health department has been contacted by many persons who were called to be scheduled for vaccination but did not answer their phone. Messages for appointments are not being left at this time, due to time constraints.

The statewide COVID-19 Risk Dial, based on the amount of hospital capacity used for COVID patients, is currently in the green level. SWNPHD continues to recommend wearing a mask in public, washing hands and surfaces often, and avoiding the 3 C's: crowded spaces, close contact, and confined spaces.

SWNPHD had 62 new cases of COVID-19 reported March 2nd to March 14th bringing the total number of cases to 3751. Testing for COVID-19 has decreased across the area except for nursing homes and assisted living centers. Medical providers are reporting that individuals are being treated for COVID-19 symptoms without being tested. SWNPHD will continue reporting COVID data bi-monthly, with updated information available on the website.

COVID-19 information can be found at swhealth.ne.gov. You can also follow SWNPHD on Facebook, Twitter, and Instagram. SWNPHD serves Chase, Dundy, Frontier, Furnas, Hayes, Hitchcock, Keith, Perkins, and Red Willow counties. SWNPHD is located at 404 West 10th St (1 block north of Arby's) in McCook and can be reached by calling 308-345-4223.

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