

NEWS RELEASE

February 14, 2023

For Immediate Release

Contact: Myra Stoney, Health Director, director@swhealth.ne.gov, 308-345-4223

COVID-19 Report for January 2023

Thirty-seven cases of COVID-19 were recorded in Southwest Nebraska Public Health Department (SWNPHD) in the past week (Feb 2 – Feb 8). The month of January saw lower case counts, with a positivity rate of 4%. The current increase in cases is due to outbreaks of COVID-19 in long term care facilities throughout the district. Other areas of Nebraska and surrounding states are beginning to see increases as well due to a new variant of COVID-19 that is spreading from the eastern US.

SWNPHD recommends being up to date on COVID-19 vaccinations and continues to encourage caution when visiting the elderly or others with weak immune systems. 42% of all SWNPHD residents have received the minimum vaccination dose (1 or 2 shots). About 57% of these have received at least one booster dose, including 3/4 of those aged 60 years and over.

Monthly report Jan 1– Jan 31, 2022

The monthly report will look at COVID-19 cases in SWNPHD across different time periods, presenting graphs showing daily progress of cases and a weekly summary in conclusion.

- The first table describes total COVID positive cases detected in the **past week (Feb 2 – Feb 8, 2023)** & the past month (**Jan 1 – Jan 31, 2022**) in Chase, Dundy, Hayes, Hitchcock, Frontier, Furnas, Keith, Perkins, and Red Willow counties. Positive results are described as bi-weekly and monthly **COVID cases/10,000 population**.
- The second table describes all COVID tests conducted in SWNPHD from **Feb 2 – Feb 8, 2023 (1 week)** & **Jan 1 – Jan 31, 2022 (1 month)**. We describe **total tests, positive cases and test positivity rate** by age and gender.
- The third table shows the **proportion of persons fully vaccinated** in SWNPHD. We define “fully vaccinated” as the proportion of persons who have received the minimum recommended dose (2 for Pfizer & Moderna; 1 for Janssen vaccines). Data is described by **county and age** category. Data current as of **Feb 8, 2023**.
- The first graph looks at the progress of the pandemic from **April 1, 2020 – Feb 8, 2023** across all 9 counties in SWNPHD. We describe the **daily COVID positive case rate (7-day rolling average¹)** across SWNPHD². The second graph describes the **same data**, dividing the population by **10-year age categories**.
- The third graph describes **daily COVID tests** in SWNPHD from **April 17, 2020 – Feb 8, 2023** further divided as **positive or negative**. The graph also describes the average **test positivity rate (7-day rolling average)³**.

¹ 7-day rolling average refers to the sum of the cases reported on that day and the preceding 6 days divided by 7. This number is presented for each day to ‘smooth out’ the line for cases.

² (7-day rolling average) test positivity rate = (Sum of positive results for preceding 7 days) / (Sum of all tests conducted in the preceding 7 days)

³ (7-day rolling average) test positivity rate = (Sum of positive results for preceding 7 days) / (Sum of all tests conducted in the preceding 7 days)

The table below describes COVID positives/10,000 population and the positivity rate for the **past week (Feb 2 – Feb 8, 2023)** & the past month (**Jan 1 – Jan 31, 2022**)

	Total Population	Feb 2 – Feb 8 (1 week)		Jan 1 – Jan 31 (1 month).	
		Positive cases/10,000 population	Test Positivity rate	Positive cases/10,000 population	Test Positivity rate
Chase	3,734	0.0	0.0%	5.4	4.9%
Dundy	2,023	9.9	40.0%	29.7	1.0%
Frontier	2,609	0.0	0.0%	11.5	5.9%
Furnas	4,786	4.2	15.4%	27.2	9.6%
Hayes	943	0.0	0.0%	10.6	14.3%
Hitchcock	2,843	10.6	75.0%	14.1	4.9%
Keith	8,099	1.2	9.1%	11.1	8.7%
Perkins	2,907	3.4	25.0%	10.3	13.0%
Red Willow	10,806	25.9	60.9%	12.0	7.8%
TOTAL	38,750	9.5	38.5%	13.9	4.4%

The table below describes COVID tests conducted, positives and the positivity rate by age and gender for the **past week (Feb 2 – Feb 8, 2023)** & the past month (**Jan 1 – Jan 31, 2022**)

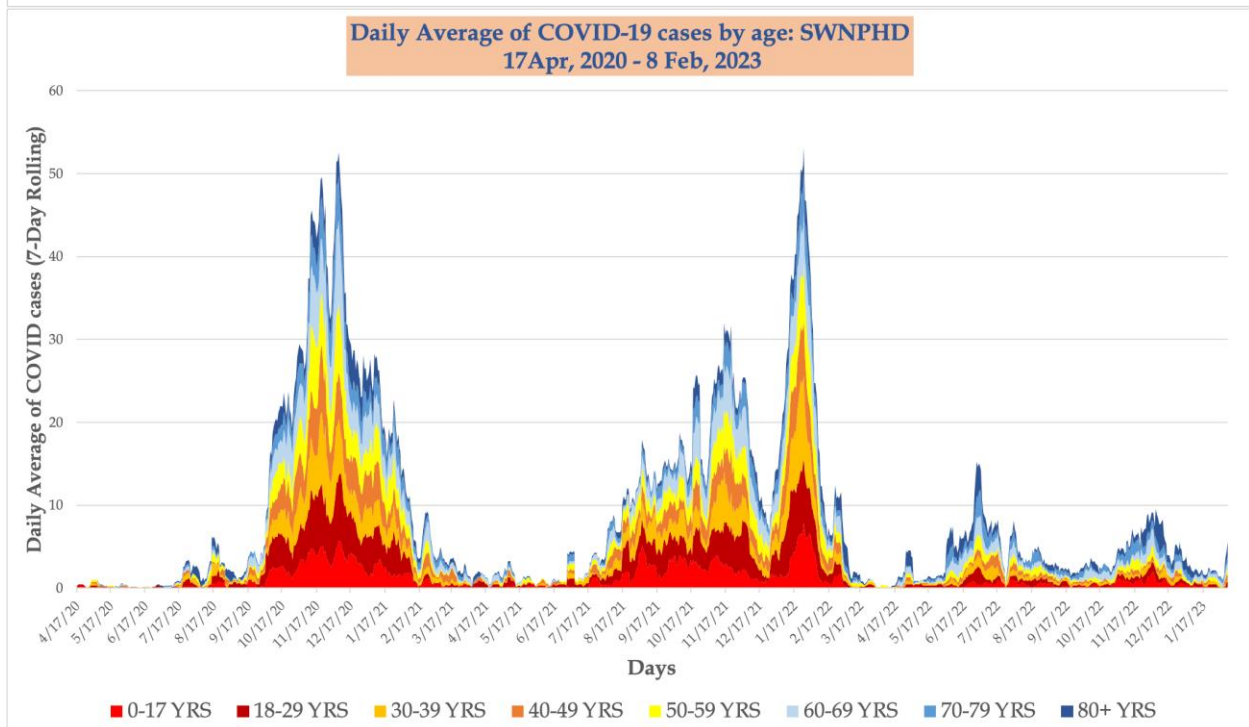
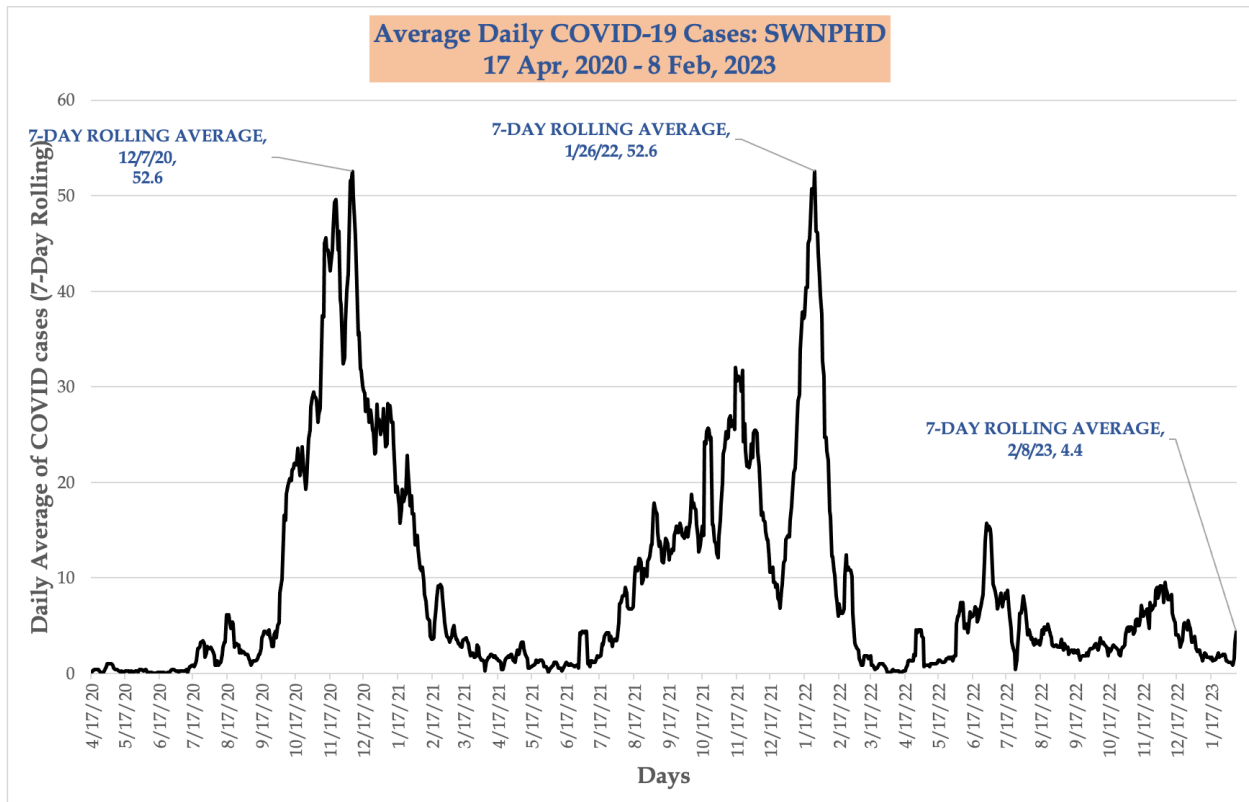
Age (in yrs)	Feb 2 – Feb 8 (1 week)			Jan 1 – Jan 31 (1 month).		
	Tests	Positive cases	Test Positivity rate	Tests	Positive cases	Test Positivity rate
0-17	12	0	0.0%	92	3	3.3%
18-29	15	5	33.3%	173	6	3.5%
30-39	5	1	20.0%	72	5	6.9%
40-49	12	5	41.7%	133	3	2.3%
50-59	11	4	36.4%	215	7	3.3%
60-69	12	5	41.7%	173	11	6.4%
70-79	14	5	35.7%	175	8	4.6%
80-89	15	12	80.0%	206	11	5.3%
Total	96	37	38.5%	1,239	54	4.4%
Gender						
Female	55	26	47.3%	914	34	3.7%
Male	41	11	26.8%	325	20	6.2%
Missing/ did not disclose	0	0	0.0%	0	0	0.0%
Total	96	37	38.5%	1,239	54	4.4%

- Details of vaccination rates by age in each of the nine counties in Southwest Nebraska Public Health Department is shown below. The legend for color codes is also displayed. Percentages have been rounded off to the nearest whole number. Vaccines are currently available to all eligible residents aged 5 years and over.
- Only 1st (Janssen) & 2nd (Moderna & Johnson & Johnson) doses (Moderna & Johnson & Johnson) have been considered, booster doses have not been counted to calculate the “completely vaccinated” rate. Data spans the period from **15 Dec, 2020 – 8 Feb, 2023**.

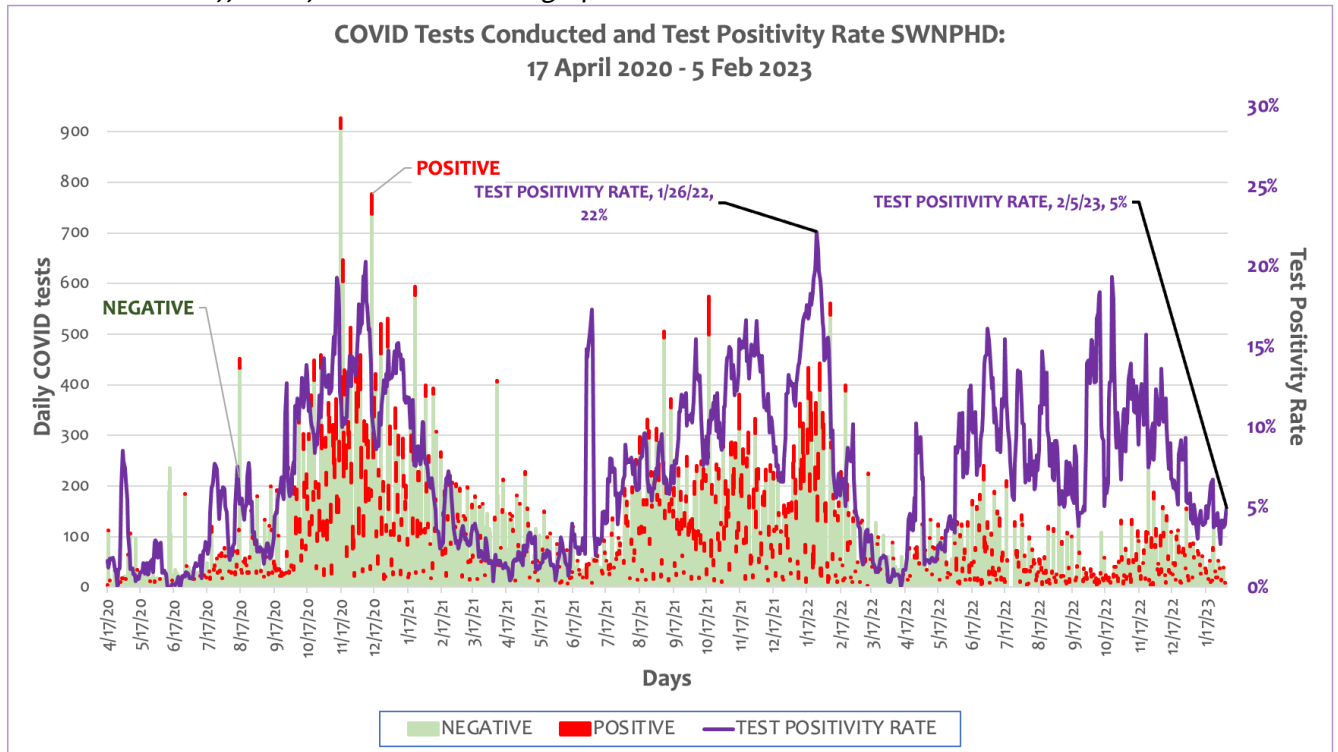
	0-19 YRS	20-34 YRS	35-44 YRS	45-54 YRS	55-64 YRS	65-74 YRS	75-84 YRS	85+ YRS	ALL AGES
Chase	12%	35%	39%	46%	50%	83%	76%	44%	42%
Dundy	8%	21%	22%	34%	42%	68%	100%	28%	30%
Frontier	8%	29%	38%	44%	51%	63%	58%	72%	38%
Furnas	18%	42%	50%	51%	62%	84%	91%	56%	51%
Hayes	10%	23%	37%	18%	28%	71%	52%	40%	29%
Hitchcock	8%	24%	36%	36%	48%	77%	50%	43%	36%
Keith	15%	38%	44%	43%	61%	65%	67%	65%	45%
Perkins	11%	32%	41%	47%	53%	74%	82%	37%	41%
Red Willow	12%	34%	46%	45%	59%	94%	68%	61%	43%
SWNPHD	12%	34%	42%	44%	55%	77%	70%	53%	42%

0% - 24%	Less than 1/4th received 1 or 2 dose as recommended
25% - 49%	1/4ths to 1/2 received 1 or 2 dose as recommended
50%- 74%	1/2 to 3/4ths received 1 or 2 dose as recommended
75% & higher	Over 3/4ths received 1 or 2 dose as recommended

- The first graph below describes the **average daily number of new cases** across all 9 counties of Southwest Nebraska Public Health Department from 17 Apr 2020 – 8 Feb 2023. Daily average is depicted by the 7-day rolling average of cases.
- The second graph describes daily average of cases by age. Graph width represents average number of new COVID cases for the previous 7 days, and individual colors describe age.
- In general, blue = 65+ years, Yellow & Orange = 35-64 year olds, Red = Less than 35 years olds.



- The graphs below describe the **daily COVID tests** in SWNPHD from **April 17, 2020 – Feb 5, 2023** further divided as **positive or negative**.
- The graph also describes the average **test positivity rate (7-day rolling average)**⁴ The graph depicts the entire district: Chase, Dundy, Furnas, Frontier, Hayes, Hitchcock, Keith, Perkins, and Red Willow counties. **Test Positivity Rate in SWNPHD from 30 Jan – 5 Feb, 2023 is 5%**
- The height of the bar graph represents the total tests conducted on that day.
- The running line graph tracks 7-day positivity rate among all COVID tests in the last 28 months.
- Scale is different for the bar and line graph – see both axes.



Southwest Nebraska Public Health Department serves Chase, Dundy, Frontier, Furnas, Hayes, Hitchcock, Keith, Perkins, and Red Willow counties. You can follow us on Facebook and Instagram or view the website at www.swhealth.ne.gov which contains many resources and additional information helpful to prevent disease, promote and protect health. Call (308) 345-4223; one number three locations, McCook, Imperial, and Ogallala.

###

⁴ (7-day rolling average) test positivity rate = (Sum of positive results for preceding 7 days) / (Sum of all tests conducted in the preceding 7 days)