

NEWS RELEASE

January 19, 2021

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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

COVID-19 Vaccination Dashboard & Hotline

Southwest Nebraska Public Health Department (SWNPHD), in partnership with six local hospitals located in the nine-county health district have administered **1,700** COVID-19 vaccinations. The majority of these doses were administered to Healthcare Workers, Long Term Care Facilities and Assisted Living Centers, all of which are in Phase 1A of the COVID-19 prioritization list. Second doses will begin this week in some areas of the health district. Allocations of vaccine to southwest Nebraska have slowed as other areas of Nebraska complete Phase 1A.

The DHHS COVID-19 Vaccination dashboard, located at <http://ow.ly/jjMOI5oDcUX4>, provides a daily update on Nebraska's vaccination effort, and includes a daily total of doses given, as well as the total number of first and second doses, and a breakdown of first and second doses given by age, gender, race, and ethnicity.

The SWNPHD waiting list for 1A and 1B in southwest Nebraska is located at www.swhealth.ne.gov/featured/1. Those without a computer or internet access are encouraged to reach out to a friend or family member for assistance. The DHHS COVID-19 hotline is also assisting with the sign-up process in our area and is available at (833) 998-2275. The hotline is staffed daily from 8 a.m. to 8 p.m. CT. Call volumes may be high, and patience is appreciated. Please do not call our local office to verify your registration or to be added to the waiting list as this prolongs the process. **Please know that it may be several weeks or even months before you receive a call to schedule your vaccination.** We are continuing to schedule as we receive the vaccine. Those interested in registering will need to provide basic information to determine Phase 1 eligibility and will be notified when community vaccination clinics begin in their area.

COVID-19 vaccines are not yet available to the public and it is expected to be late spring before mass vaccination begins. Nebraskans are reminded that while vaccine supply is limited, basic precautions are the best defense against COVID-19. Wearing a mask, watching your distance, washing hands often, staying home when you are sick, and avoiding the 3C's – crowded places, close contact with others, and confined spaces – are still critical to limiting infection.

The COVID-19 Community Risk Dial continues to follow the State of Nebraska's risk dial which is being used to determine the Directed Health Measures, based on the amount of hospital capacity used for COVID patients. Nebraska continues to be in the blue level, between yellow and green. Recommendations include 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 136 new cases of COVID-19 reported January 12th to January 19th. A breakout by

county includes: Chase – 18; Dundy – 13; Frontier – 3; Furnas – 16; Hayes – 0; Hitchcock – 3; Keith – 11; Perkins – 10; Red Willow – 62. This brings the totals for the health district to 3347 cases. SWNPHD also received confirmation of 4 additional deaths due to Covid-19. A breakout of total cases by county is available on SWNPHD's website.

COVID-19 information can be found at dhhs.ne.gov and 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.

###