

Our Vision: Healthy People in Healthy Communities
Adams, Clay, Nuckolls and Webster Counties

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For more information contact: Michele Bever, PhD, MPH, Executive Director
402-462-6211 / 1-877-238-7595

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COVID-19 case numbers steady at “substantial to high” transmission;
District health department encourages residents to stay up-to-date on vaccinations

Hastings, Neb – In the weekly SHDHD update on June 28, South Heartland District Health Department (SHDHD) executive director Michele Bever reported that COVID-19 case numbers in the health district over the past 5 weeks have remained consistent at “substantial to high” transmission levels, based on the case rate and percent positive tests. The health district is comprised of Adams, Clay, Nuckolls and Webster counties.

Bever said the health department has continued to log cases in all four counties. With ongoing community transmission, the health department is encouraging all residents who are eligible to stay up-to-date on their COVID-19 vaccines and boosters.

“It is good news that most people who are up-to-date on their vaccines and become infected have only mild symptoms, similar to colds or allergies. This means the vaccine is doing a good job boosting people’s immune systems and protecting them from getting very ill,” Bever said. “We recommend that anyone ages 6 months and older who is eligible for the vaccine take steps to stay up-to-date, which means getting the primary series and any boosters as soon as you are eligible.”

Vaccination can also help prevent serious short- and long-term complications of COVID-19. Bever said staying up-to-date is especially important for [people who are more at risk](#) of getting very sick. “We continue to encourage people who have underlying medical conditions or who are 65+ years old to talk with their health care providers about the benefits of COVID-19 vaccination and ways to protect themselves. Being up-to-date on vaccinations provides the best immunity and helps protect them from getting very sick and needing hospital care,” she said.

Bever said COVID-19 vaccine is readily available in the health district. For locations offering COVID-19 vaccine or COVID-19 tests, refer to the SHDHD website, southheartlandhealth.org or call the health department office, 1-877-238-7595. For state, national and global COVID-19 updates, visit the UNMC Global Center for Health Security: <https://www.unmc.edu/healthsecurity/covid-19/biweekly-updates.html>.

SHDHD COVID-19 dashboard update on 06.28.2022: 41 confirmed COVID-19 cases logged last week compared to 46 the week before; 24 confirmed cases counted in the current week through Tuesday. Cumulative case total for the health district is 10,573 since March 2020. Case rate (7-day new cases per 100,000) is 97.7, weekly community positivity (percent positive tests) is 31.7%. Three long term care facilities with staff members positive. One COVID-19-positive patient hospitalized. Other South Heartland District COVID-19 trends may be found on [SHDHD’s COVID-19 dashboard](#) at southheartlandhealth.org.