

We are all about COVID Vaccination!!



Vaccine Clinic Stations staffed by Mary Lanning, local pharmacists and National Guard.



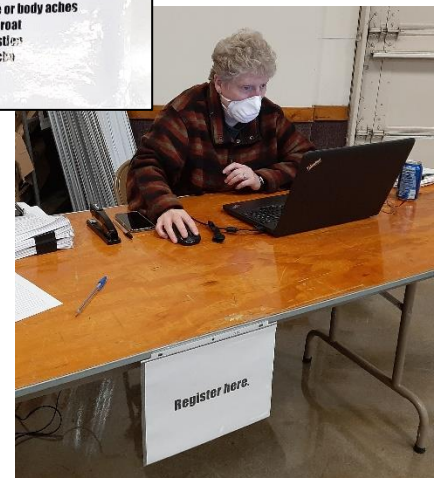
Below: Vaccine Clinic stations Temperature Checks and Registration (Appointment Check-In) staffed by SHDHD

Temperature Check



Please tell us if you have any of the following:

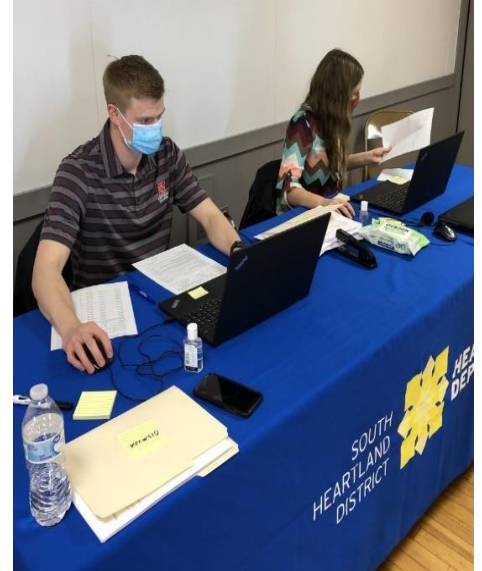
- Cough
- Shortness of breath
- Loss of taste or smell
- Loose stools/upset stomach/nausea
- Muscle or body aches
- Sore throat
- Congestion
- Headaches



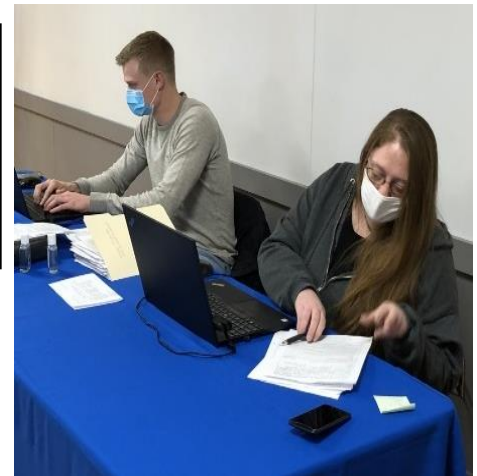


Pharmacy Vaccine Preparation Station: SHDHD and Mary Lanning Pharmacists prepare the vaccine for administration – including drawing up shots for the vaccinators

Data entry - SHDHD staff enter info on completed vaccinations into the NE State Immunization Information System



Left and Below Left: Vaccination Card and Post-Vaccination Education Station. Below: SHDHD staff disinfecting Waiting Area and a busy waiting area (15-minute post-shot wait for monitoring)





Receiving vaccine and ancillary supplies, splitting them out, and readying them for delivery to vaccination partners in Adams, Clay, Nuckolls and Webster Counties.



Our Hastings College partners sent us a decorated giant cookie “Hitting Covid with our best Shot”, along with HC Bronco face masks. Other recent treats and meal ‘Thank You’ to SHDHD came from Allo, Heritage Bank and Edgewood Vista. Our staff appreciates their support!



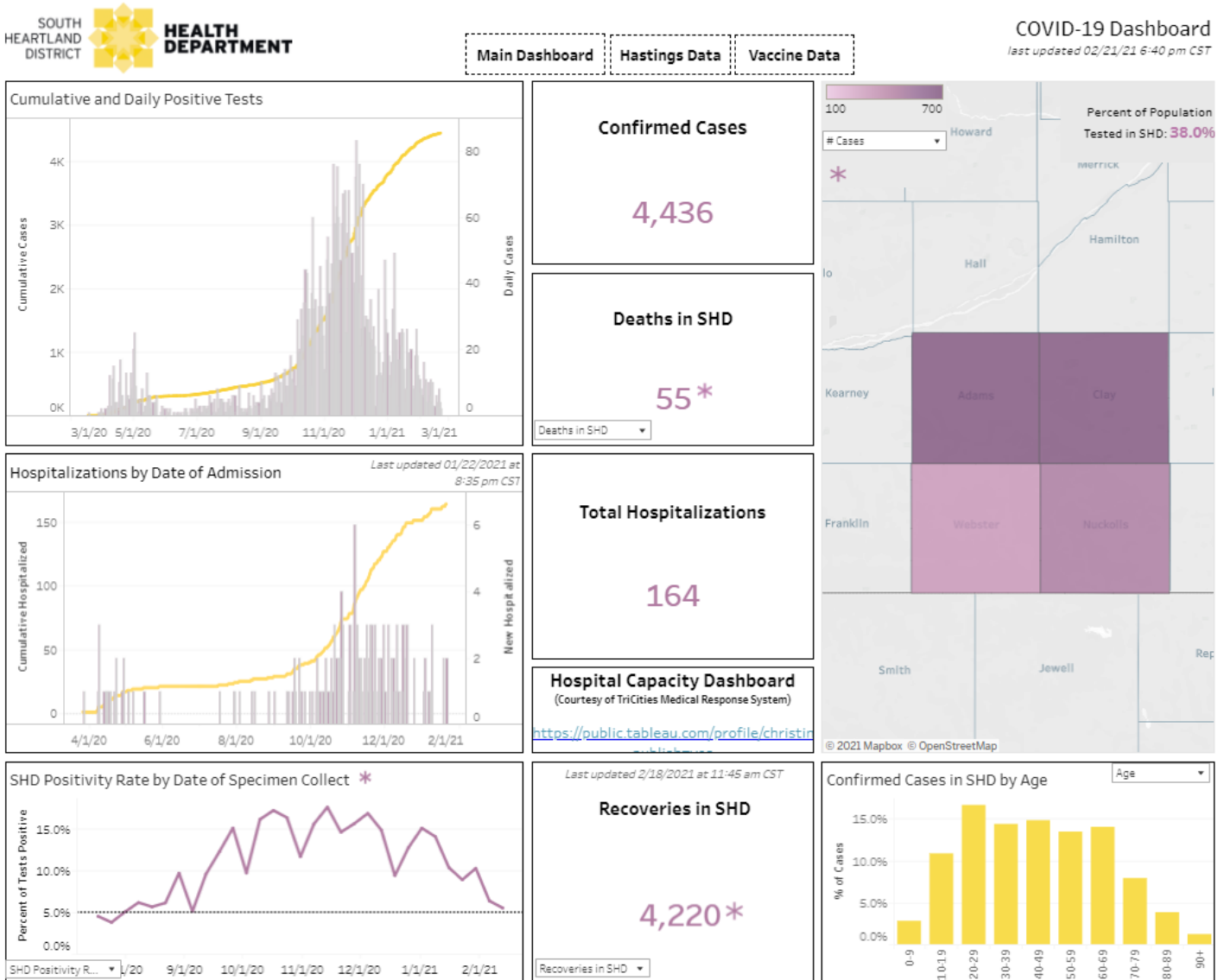
# Bi-monthly Report on the Ten Essential Services of Public Health

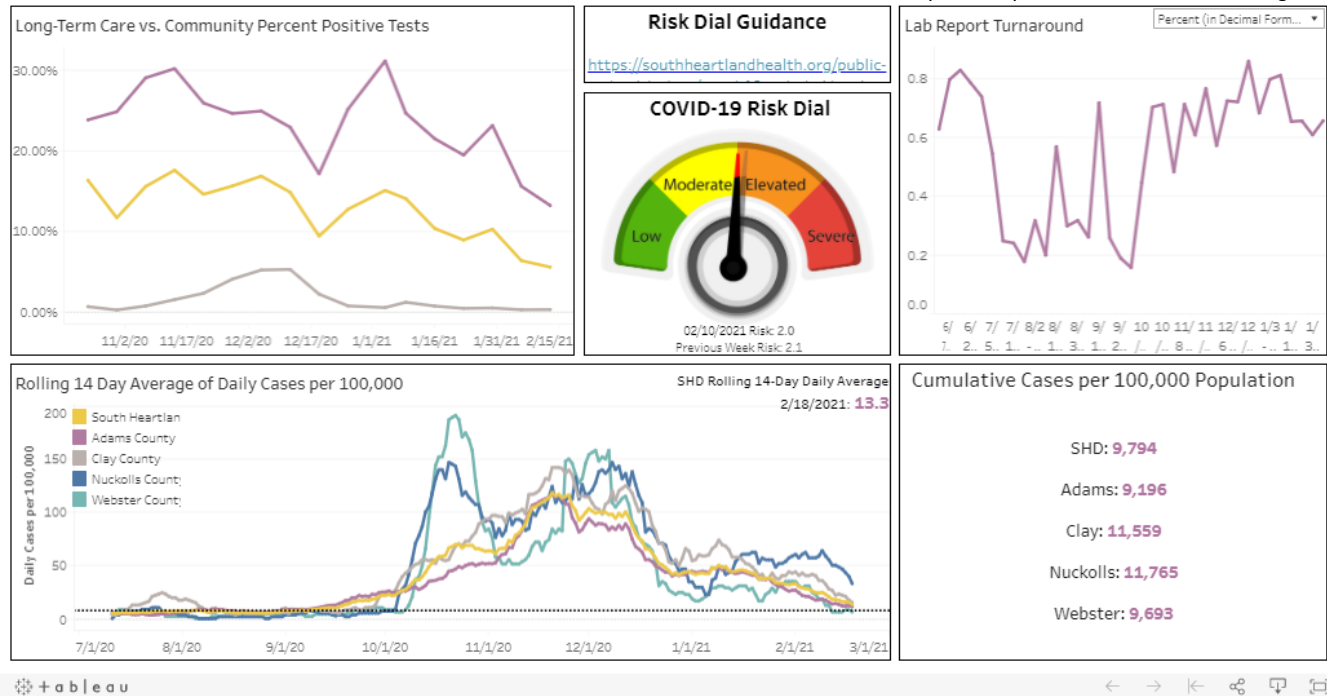
## 1. Assess and monitor population health status, factors that influence health, and community needs and assets *(What's going on in our district? Do we know how healthy we are?)*

- *How do we collect and maintain data about conditions of public health importance and about the health status of the population, and how do we make it available to our partners and our community?*
- *What major problems or trends have we identified in the past 2 months?*

### Local

- Surveillance data, water violations, and other [health information is made available](#) on our website, through links on our website, on SHDHD's Network of Care website, through news releases and interviews to various forms of media, and upon request from partners or others.
- **Coronavirus (COVID-19) Outbreak:** [www.southheartlandhealth.org](http://www.southheartlandhealth.org)





South Heartland COVID-19 Dashboard, as of February 22, 2021

**Coronavirus (COVID-19) Outbreak Situation Update:**

- As of February 22, 2021, 4,436 South Heartland residents have tested positive for COVID. Cases have decreased during this period, with 661 investigations completed, and all but 22 by South Heartland staff.
- At the beginning of the year, many cases were associated with holiday family gatherings. There have been additional events where COVID has spread including among HS and college, and community recreation sports teams, workplace exposures, parties, childcare and funerals.
- A small committee has also been working with Hastings College for ongoing planning to put prevention measures in place, provide feedback on response plans and their implementation, and provide other guidance as necessary. We have also worked with CCC Hastings as needed during this reporting period.
- DHHS provided an update in January regarding international travel as well as guidance for exposures of vaccinated individuals through the Local Health Department Epi Operations and Guidance manual.
- The SHDHD’s COVID risk dial has remained in the orange or “elevated” zone during this reporting period.
- SHDHD COVID positivity rate continues to be indicative of widespread community activity at 13.15% for the general population, however, it has been trending down in January and February.
- SHDHD staff have been monitoring the spread of variants in the US. There are currently 1,661 cases of the B.1.1.7/UK variant in 44 states, 22 cases of the B.1.351/South Africa variant in 10 states and 5 cases of the P.1 variant in 4 states. No variants have been detected in Nebraska as of February 22<sup>nd</sup>.
- We are monitoring cases for potential variants that meet criteria in order to submit specimens to NPHL for whole genome sequencing.
- COVID testing is available through TestNebraska and at various healthcare facilities throughout our jurisdiction, allowing all residents to have access to testing within 30 miles of their home (Hastings: Mary Lanning and Convenient Care; Superior: Brodstone Memorial Hospital; and Red Cloud: Webster County Hospital). Most South Heartland clinics have PCR testing access or rapid antigen testing available on site for their clients.
- Monitoring and Tracking updates: Worked with TRIMRS to create dashboard for South Heartland district’s hospital capacity data and added a link to it from the SHDHD COVID-19 dashboard. Began tracking Hastings-specific data on daily new cases, 7 day rolling average of new cases, and weekly positivity after Hastings City Council approved a mask policy. Added a COVID-19 Vaccine Dashboard to track number of doses of vaccine administered in the South Heartland District.



**2. Investigate, diagnose, and address health problems and hazards affecting the population (Are we ready to respond to health problems or threats? How quickly do we find out about problems? How effective is our response?)**

- *Key activities in the past 2 months to prevent, minimize, and contain adverse health events and conditions resulting from communicable diseases; food-, water-, and vector-borne outbreaks; chronic diseases; environmental hazards; injuries; and health disparities*
- *Emergency preparedness (e.g., planning, exercises, and response activities)*
- **COVID-19 Preparedness and Response:** See COVID Outbreak Situation Update, above. In addition, SHDHD is responsible for receipt, inventory, repackaging and dissemination of PPE for our jurisdiction. To help keep key partners informed, SHDHD sent 25 Alert Sense notifications (Jan/Feb) to over 140 individuals each time and issued 24 news releases to media and partners. Staff check the Nebraska Electronic Disease Surveillance System, DOMO (Test Nebraska reporting system), and fax machine output multiple times each day and on weekends, so that we can begin follow up on positive cases immediately by issuing isolation instructions and conducting contact investigations. SHDHD promotes mask-wearing, social distancing, and prevention. Since December, we are shifting more staff and focus to COVID-19 vaccine distribution and administration, and engaging our local hospitals clinics, and some pharmacies in these efforts.
- **Tuberculosis Investigation:** Surveillance staff are responding to a report of active tuberculosis. In addition to identifying close contacts, testing arrangements and additional specimens needed to be coordinated as well as treatment medication and direct observed therapy. Follow up for this case will last several months in order to assure that those exposed are treated and no additional cases become contagious.
- **Plan Reviews:** Four event plans were reviewed and approved during January/February. The indoor capacity is currently 100% of the state rated capacity and most restrictions have been lifted, so we are messaging the three C's: Avoiding Crowded Places, Close Contact and Confined Spaces.
- **PPE distribution totals:** From the beginning of March 2020 through the February 18, 2021 SH has handed out: Masks – 179,495 Surgical Masks – 255,050, Cloth Masks – 44,500, Face Shields – 14,201, Goggles – 1,645, Hand Sanitizer – 1,312 containers, Wipes – 8,340 containers, Gloves – 576,400, Gowns – 127,521, Thermometers – 779, Bleach – 12 gal., Eco Lab Disinfectant – 3 containers. SHDHD has been working with ESU9 to get more cloth masks and alcohol wipes out to the schools and more equipment out to the school nurses. SHDHD is changing from receiving PPE weekly to monthly basis. We have enough inventory to fill the requests received and replace those requests on a monthly basis.
- **Phase II of the Little Blue Hazard Mitigation Plan.** Public health risk staff is working through Little Blue NRD to create a plan accepted by FEMA (SHDHD is the only LHD to date) which allows us to take advantage of a disaster declaration anywhere in the state to request a grant for items such as a generator to power the department.

**3. Communicate effectively to inform and educate people about health, factors that influence it, and how to improve it (How well do we keep all people in our district informed about health issues?)**

- *Examples of key information related to physical, behavioral, environmental, social, economic, and other issues affecting health that we provided to the public.*
- *Examples of health promotion programs that we implemented to address identified health problems.*
- **Community sign boards:** Continue using sign boards for information about COVID as well as adult vaccination.
- **Advertisements:** Print advertisements in all area newspapers promote the vaccination priorities and timeline.
- **News releases, public health columns, ads and interviews:** Most news and media communications have been COVID-19 related. In Jan-Feb, SHDHD put out 24 press releases, participated in one Hastings City council work session and one Council meeting about masks that was streamed, and granted phone, in-person and Zoom interviews for TV, radio and print media, focusing primarily on COVID-19-related issues. News releases are posted on the website and can be viewed in English, Spanish, or Vietnamese.
- **Radio Advertising:** SHDHD is running a PSA on KHAS Platte River radio network and KRFS in Superior to promote getting the COVID vaccine and practicing prevention.

- **SHDHD Facebook:** These past two months SHDHD's Facebook/Twitter posts have been primarily focused around COVID-19 information with additional veteran mental health and promotion of cancer prevention. During the month of January, the total number of people reached through FB posts was 14,727 and for February 6,806! This is still an increase from "pre-COVID" months. Spanish FB page: 6 different posts of COVID-19 information.
- **Website: Continue** maintain a COVID-19 information page that is user friendly, easy to navigate and informative. Our website "views" increased for January (19,204 views), similar to that of November 2020 (20,076 views). December views: 10,506. Website views continue to be higher than our pre- COVID-19 (~450 views/mo)
- **COVID-19 Information:** Answering calls from the public and providers remains a priority for SHDHD staff. With the constantly changing focus, information, and CDC guidance, information has to be updated to assure a correct and consistent message.
- **Tai Chi Moving for Better Balance & Stepping On Classes:** Beginning Tai Chi classes will start back up during the month of March in Superior, Nelson and Hastings (YMCA). Advanced Tai Chi classes are offered all year in Hastings at the Golden Friendship Center and in Red Cloud at the Community Center, and twice a year in Superior, Nelson and Hastings-YMCA for individuals that have completed the beginning 12-week class. Stepping On classes are being planned to start back up in March or April in Hastings. Stepping On meets once a week for seven weeks for 1 ½ hours with guest experts talking about fall related topics.

#### **4. Strengthen, support, and mobilize communities and partnerships to improve health (How well do we really get people and organizations engaged in health issues?)**

- *Process for developing SHDHDs community health improvement plan (CHIP) and/or implementing our work plan.*
- *Examples where we engaged the public health system and community to address health problems collaboratively.*
- **Community Health Improvement Plan (CHIP) implementation:** We are partnering with United Way to complete the Community Health Needs Assessment (CHNA) requirement for SH hospital's IRS reporting every 3 years. This will be a combination of United Way's assessment and SH data. United Way can also use these data for their grant submissions.
- **Access to Health Care CHIP Priority:** Minority Health Outreach education for COVID and COVID vaccination was provided by two bi-lingual CHW (Community Health Workers) to over 300 employees at 2 meat processing plants
- **Substance Misuse CHIP Priority:** SHDHD continues to work, as time allows, on following our drug overdose prevention subaward workplan by working with Area Substance and Alcohol Abuse Prevention (ASAAP), and sharing data that was updated.
- **Mental Health CHIP Priority:**
  - **Rural Behavior Health Network:** The Rural Health Network continues to meet on schedule, but virtually. The network continues to implement their strategic plan by collecting surveys for providers to help us understand the current referral environment. The network is continuing to utilize a no-cost extension from the original planning grant (funds unable to be used due to COVID responsibilities January-June 2021) to assist with implementation of the strategic plan. The South Heartland Rural Behavioral Health Network partners have identified evidence-based screening tools for depression, substance abuse and suicide prevention to promote with local providers.
  - **VetSET/Making Connections:** SHDHD received an extra offset of \$1,000 during February for our efforts with veterans and their families. SHDHD is hoping to plan another Military Family Fun Day later in the year.
- **Obesity & Related Health Conditions CHIP Priority:**
  - **CS-CASH:**
  - **SHDHD Healthy Kids Workgroup, HKW:** SHDHD is excited to bring on new sites and begin implementation. Due to COVID activities, the work is a little slower than originally planned, but the team is slowly moving forward. Each county is represented through this project. SHDHD was able to reconnect with each of the sites during these months and began collecting agency MOUs, getting toolkits dispersed, and beginning Zoom meetings with participants.
  - **Building Healthy Families:** SHDHD has led the implementation team through several meetings as we prepare to kick off the program in April, pushing start date back from original plan of March. We have clinic partners on board and are ready to start recruiting family participants for our first class.
  - **Improving Health through changes in Built Environment and Social Supports:** SHDHD continues to work with Sutton and Hastings to improve the built environment and social supports to increase health. Sutton is

moving forward with a trail expansion project through their local park. They will be raising the funds through local supports and community foundations.

- **Prevention Connection: Smart Moves, Diabetes Prevention Class (DPP):** SHDHD finished two Smart Moves classes during January 2021 in Superior and Hastings. The Hastings class has 5 of 6 participants still participating, they have lost 99 lbs. with 7.5% weight loss. Superior class has 5 of 11 participants still participating, they have lost 134 lbs. with 5.5% weight loss. Due to COVID-19, both classes have moved to doing classes with Zoom because of social distancing. Superior started a new Smart Moves class in January with 15 participants.
- **Whole School, Whole Community, Whole Child (WSCC):** SHDHD continues to work with Harvard (meeting monthly with their wellness team) and HPS (meeting quarterly with their team) to implement school wellness activities. Harvard is doing an awesome job implementing their wellness team. In addition, SHDHD has recruited two additional schools to implement wellness activities. All schools are working on implementing their action plans that consist of improving recess equipment, improving their backpack program and building up their wellness team. All schools are also working on including their mandatory 5 personal development trainings.
- **Cancer Priority:**
  - **Mary Lanning Healthcare Cancer Committee:** Unable to attend due to the demands of COVID-19.
- **Colon Cancer:** FOBT Colon Cancer Screening kits continue to be distributed by mail as requested via phone or through the website. Community Health Center continues to actively distribute kits to their uninsured population.
- **Cancer Grant:** SHDHD has reviewed the surveys collected last spring about screening practices, reviewed evidence-based screening practices and reached out to clinics outside the SH district to understand their practices. SHDHD is hoping to partner with one area clinic to improve screening practices.
- **Schools Collaboration:** SHDHD continues to collaborate with NE local health directors and Nebraska Department of Education and NSAA on guidance for safe school instruction and activities during COVID-19 pandemic. We participate in bi-weekly meetings with local school superintendents, ESU-9, Head Start and day cares to provide COVID-19 updates, guidance on plan implementation and discussion of barriers and needs. We continue to work with schools to implement the Governor's directed health measure instructions regarding quarantine and isolation of school-age individuals. All parties are pleased that local schools made it to spring without having to move to all remote instruction. Vaccination of education sector started on February 26.

## 5. Create, champion, and implement policies, plans, and laws that impact health

*(What policies promote health in our district? How effective are we in planning and in setting health policies?)*

- *What policies have we proposed and implemented that improve population health and/or reduce disparities?*
- *Describe how our department engaged in agency-specific strategic planning to develop a vision, mission, and guiding principles that reflect the community's public health needs, and to prioritize services and programs.*
- *What plans are we developing and implementing to improve our department's quality and effectiveness (plans for quality improvement, workforce development, branding, communication, and performance management)?*
- **New Plans (Grant Proposals, Subawards and Contract Projects):**
  - **COVID Funding / COVID Planning:** We are working on plans and budgets to use the various revenue streams for general COVID response and COVID Immunization activities. These (mostly federal pass through) funds include: COVID Capacity Building (supports disease investigation), Mass Flu Vaccination (can also be used for COVID), COVID Vaccination, LB 1008 (state funds to LHDs for COVID activities), Federal pass through COVID Funds reimbursed through NEMA, and FEMA COVID Vaccination Site funds (will not come to LHDs directly). Plans/budgets include space rental (e.g., Adams Co Fairgrounds), staffing (SHDHD and contracted), transportation (e.g., vehicle rental), supplies (e.g., vaccination supplies), equipment (e.g., vaccine storage/handling/transport equipment)
- **SHDHD COVID-19 AAR:** Continue to compile COVID After Action Report materials and data for completion of 2020 (July 1- December 31). Incident Action Plan to address identified priorities will be included. Starting on 2021 information.
- **COVID-19 Response Plans:** SHDHD is following and promoting evidence-based guidance from the CDC, NE DHHS, Professional Associations, UNMC Specialty Teams and other sources for all of the COVID-19 response activities. New data and evidence-based practices are shared by UNMC Global Center for Health Security and other partners at bi-weekly briefings. Policies and recommendations are data-driven, based on current evidence.
- **COVID-19 Vaccine Distribution Plan:** SHDHD follows Nebraska's COVID Vaccination Plan and the associated phased/tiered priority groups. Our specific local plan involves partnership with DHHS-approved providers in each



county to help administer the vaccine to the Phase 1B population, especially their 65+ patients. SHDHD receives the vaccine, manages the allocations, and supports the providers. In Clay County: Sutton Family Practice, Quality Health Care Clinic, Clay County Health Department, Edgar Clinic (an extension of Superior Family Medical Center); In Nuckolls County: Superior Family Medical Center, Nelson Clinic, Brodstone Memorial Hospital; In Webster County: Webster County Community Hospital (they are also collaborating with Main Street Clinic in Red Cloud to do their patients); In Adams County: Family Medical Center, Hastings Internal Medicine, Hastings Family Care, Community Health Center, Mary Lanning Healthcare, Bert's Pharmacy, and SHDHD. Pharmacies that are currently receiving direct allocation through the federal retail pharmacy COVID vaccine program are: Bert's Pharmacy and Walmart, both in Hastings. Keith's Pharmacy in Hastings and Village Pharmacy in Red Cloud are also signed up to participate in this program.

- **Vaccine EUA, Emergency Use Authorization:** SHDHD is following and promoting to partners the CDC, FDA, and Emergency Use Authorization guidance for COVID-19 vaccination procedures, VAERS (vaccine adverse event reporting system), and stringent adherence to vaccine management and handling procedures.

## **6. Utilize legal and regulatory actions designed to improve and protect the public's health**

***(When we enforce health regulations are we up-to-date, technically competent, fair and effective?)***

- *Describe efforts to educate members of our community on public health laws, policies, regulations, and ordinances and how to comply with them.*
- *What laws and regulations have we helped enforce to protect the public's health?*
- **Nebraska Clean Indoor Air Act:** None this period.
- **City of Hastings Mask Policy:** SHDHD recommended extension of the mask policy, proposing metrics for expiration and reinstatement. We provided information to the Council work session on February 18 and arranged for Dr. James Lawler, UNMC Global Center for Health Security, to join remotely to answer council member questions. SHDHD provided a statement during the public comment period at the City Council meeting on February 22, prior to council discussion of extending the policy. Council action: failed by one vote to suspend the rules to implement it after the first reading, so it expired Tuesday, February 23. The amended mask ordinance could come to a second reading at the next Council meeting, but it is unclear how the Council might proceed. SHDHD is continuing to encourage and educate on the importance of prevention until we reach and sustain low community spread. This includes wearing masks over nose and mouth, staying 6 feet away from people you don't live with, staying home if you have symptoms, avoiding crowds, avoiding close contact, avoiding confined spaces, and getting a COVID vaccine when it is your turn!
- **NE Directed Health Measures:** The Governor's office and NE DHHS issued Phased Public Health Restrictions Tied to Coronavirus Hospitalization Rate (Color Zone Chart). SHDHD is working with the Governor's office, NE DHHS, local law enforcement and village/city officials to educate, promote and enforce the state direct health measures (DHM) as they are revised and restrictions added or loosened. Currently in the green zone, no restrictions, guidance remains and is recommended. New DHM for March clarify quarantine for vaccinated individuals.
- **Limitations on Gatherings:** The various State Directed Health Measure revisions issued in January and February included changes in the limitations on gathering sizes and/or venue capacities. The DHM versions also continue to include a requirement for gatherings using venues that can hold 500 or more individuals to submit a plan to their local health department for approval prior to holding the event or reopening. The listing of approved events is posted on the South Heartland website.
- **SHDHD's Quarantine and Isolation Authorities:** SHDHD continues to provide education on isolation or quarantine for individuals who tested positive for COVID-19 or who may have been exposed to individuals who tested positive. Staff provide education over the phone, provide letters for entities to contact groups, e.g., parents in a daycare. The authority for these actions is outlined in the State Directed Health Measures (DHM) for Adams, Clay, Nuckolls and Webster Counties. Isolation or quarantine orders are provided if individuals fail to comply voluntarily.

## **7. Assure an effective system that enables equitable access to the individual services and care needed to be healthy**

***(Are people receiving the medical care they need?)***

- *Describe the gaps that our department has identified in personal health services.*
- *Describe the strategies and services that we have supported and implemented to increase access to health care and establish systems of personal health services, including preventive and health promotion services, in partnership with the community.*

- **Immunization: Vaccine for Children Program:** SH's immunization team continues to implement safeguards in the delivery of clinics to protect patients, family members and staff from COVID-19. Immunization clinics were held in January and February. Staff delivered 54 vaccinations to 28 patients at the combined clinics. Of the 28 patients, 21 (75%) were uninsured, 6 (21%) had Medicaid and 1 (4%) patients were underinsured (insurance doesn't cover vaccines). 7 (25%) were new patients to the clinic with referrals coming from local providers, Head Start and family or friends. Total donation collected for January and February clinics was \$151.00 (average \$2.82 per vaccination and \$5.34 per patient).
- **Immunization: Adult Immunization Program:** 1 Tdap and 11 flu vaccines were given to uninsured adults during January and February clinics. With additional immunization funding for flu vaccination and federally funded flu vaccine doses available, we held 1 adult flu clinics at the department in January and worked together with Webster County Clinic to provide no cost flu vaccine for residents. 7 individuals were vaccinated during their week-long flu clinic offering.
- **Reminder/Recall to improve vaccination rates:** No reminder/recall activity was completed during January and February.
- **Community Health Worker (English Only) / Every Woman Matters (EWM) and Health Coaching:** Health Coaching EWM clients for February: Completed 1st Health Coaching call with 0 participants, 2nd Health Coaching call with 2 participants, 3rd Health Coaching call and Every Woman Matters assessment with 1 participant.
- **COVID-19 Testing:** SHDHD TestNebraska testing sites ongoing for access to testing includes Brodstone Memorial Hospital (M-W-F), Mary Lanning (M-F), Hasting Convenient Care (Sa-Su, Wed evening), and Webster County Hospital (T).
- **COVID-19 Vaccinations:** SHDHD is receiving weekly allocations of COVID-19 vaccine and transferring doses to collaborating hospitals, clinics and pharmacies approved as Phase1B providers by the Nebraska Immunization Program. Vaccines are being administered across the district to populations according to the state's vaccine administration plan and priorities. To date, 02.25.21, 4894 prime (dose 1) vaccines and 2213 booster (dose 2) have been administered within the South Heartland district (does not include Federal Long Term Care vaccine program or Federal Retail Pharmacy Program.)

## 8. Build and support a diverse and skilled public health workforce

- *Efforts to evaluate LHD staff members' public health competencies. How have we addressed these deficiencies?*
- *Describe the strategies we have used to develop, train, and retain a diverse staff.*
- *Provide examples of training experiences that were provided for staff.*
- *Describe the activities that we have completed to establish a workforce development plan.*
- **The Workforce Development Plan:** 2020-21 workplan has been completed for BOH review.
- **Qualtrics:** Qualtrics survey software is used to translate the press releases into three different languages as well as collect data from agencies or event planners on their COVID-19 reopen and event/gathering safety plans.
- **Statewide COVID Updates:** The ED, at least, participates in 2X weekly statewide COVID briefings and shares with staff and other stakeholders the recorded COVID updates from Dr. James Lawler, Global Center for Health Security. One or more staff are participating in 2X weekly state-level Fusion Cell meetings on COVID response, and 2-4 staff participate in twice weekly vaccine meetings with state partners to obtain info for local planning.
- **Surveillance Training** - Surveillance staff are learning a new surveillance data platform, through training provided by DHHS.
- **Surveillance briefings** – SH Health Surveillance Coordinator providing weekly briefings/updates for surveillance staff.
- **Staff COVID Briefings:** Conducted 3X weekly to share current situational status, evidence-based practices, updates on DHMs, etc. Mondays by Zoom and bullet points emailed for Wednesday and Friday.
- **Staff Roles for COVID Response Activities:** We continue to analyze our staffing needs and cross-training staff specifically to support the COVID workload and meet the changing needs. We provided new/refresher training on NESIIS (Nebraska's immunization registry) to at least 8 staff. Jean Korth, Program Assistant for Chronic Disease Prevention, attended new training on NESIIS. Support staff is also assisting with completing non-COVID work.

## 9. Improve and innovate public health functions through ongoing evaluation, research, and continuous quality improvement (*Are we doing any good? Are we doing things right?*).

- *Examples of our evaluation activities related to evidence-based public health programs.*
- *Examples of QI projects that we have completed or are in process.*



- **QI-PM Plan:** Goal 3: Evaluate and refine processes for data collection, analysis, reporting and evaluation/ Reporting – continue COVID data, dashboards, website, social media and press releases.
- **Quality Improvement Projects:** COVID processes & documentation are ever changing, reviewed and updated. Completed review/revision/reformatting of SHDHD’s Policy & Procedures Handbook; currently revising financial and operations policy handbook
- **Strategic Plan action plan and dashboard: Goal 4: Continue to optimize human resources:** contract staff, volunteers, and new hires are helping SHDHD meet the increase in workload due to COVID-19. Cross-training of staff to increase/prepare a competent workforce.
- **Community Health Improvement (CHIP) Implementation:** COVID processes reviewed to document implementation of CHIP goals and strategies.
- **COVID19 Response QI/PM:** continuation of process improvement (policies and procedures) and assessing how we can improve as we progress through the pandemic. The focus is on data analysis and process documentation to identify opportunities and successes for quality improvement.
- **Performance Management (PM):** Maintaining current processes for COVID-19 mitigation.
- **Data Sharing:** Using Tableau as our data platform, SHDHD has shared an immense amount of data – updating some daily and some weekly, and striving to improve every day. SHDHD reviews data for accuracy and makes corrections as needed. We conduct continuous review of the dashboard metrics and data presentation updating the chart format and explanations as needed, and adding new pages of data as new analysis is completed. In January, we added a vaccine dashboard page to share progress on COVID-19 vaccinations.

## 10. Build and maintain a strong organizational infrastructure for public health

- **This is a new essential service**, launched with the revised 10 Essential Public Health Services in September 2020. It replaces the “contribute to the evidence-base,” which was incorporated elsewhere, and provides focus on a domain that is important to accreditation. We will begin reporting evidence of the many ways we are providing this service in the March-April Board Report. This service includes:
  - Developing an understanding of the broader organizational infrastructures and roles that support the entire public health system in a jurisdiction (e.g., government agencies, elected officials, and non-governmental organizations)
  - Ensuring that appropriate, needed resources are allocated equitably for the public’s health
  - Exhibiting effective and ethical leadership, decision-making, and governance
  - Managing financial and human resources effectively
  - Employing communications and strategic planning capacities and skills
  - Having robust information technology services that are current and meet privacy and security standards
  - Being accountable, transparent, and inclusive with all partners and the community in all aspects of practice

## Success stories: How we made a difference....

SHDHD is working in collaboration with many partners to vaccinate the district's residents with COVID-19 vaccine. We had some Pfizer to begin with, but now have Moderna vaccine, which does not require the ultra-cold storage. Both of these vaccines require two doses. Johnson & Johnson vaccine just received FDA approval for Emergency Use Authorization (EUA) and will add to our vaccine allocations. J & J is a one dose vaccine.

We are currently in Phase 1B of Nebraska's vaccination priorities, vaccinating our 65+ population. The governor requested 90% of our allocated vaccine cover this population and the remaining 10% cover essential services (see Nebraska chart below). Seven medical clinics that have been approved by the State (meet requirements to be a COVID-19 vaccine provider) are vaccinating their 65+ patients. Other partners include our hospitals – Mary Lanning, Brodstone Memorial (Superior) and Webster County (Red Cloud), and Clay County Health Department.

South Heartland is holding clinics at the Adams County Fairground with many volunteers including nurses from the community, Mary Lanning nurses and pharmacy, and National Guard members embedded at SH. SH staff have many roles – procuring the site, rent payment for the site, moving the site if needed, organizing & scheduling volunteers, organizing patient lists and scheduling appointments, managing vaccine - determining allocations and transporting vaccine to provider's and our sites, NESIIS (Nebraska State Immunization Information System) entries within 24 hours following clinics, data entry collected from partnering entities, communication and Zoom meetings for support and quality improvement, etc.

### Success at South Heartland's COVID-19 Immunization Clinics looks like this:

- As of 02.25.21 (Week 11 of vaccine administration), we have vaccinated 4,894 people with first doses and 2,213 with second (booster) doses!
- Hope for a vaccine that can end the pandemic. People are so happy to be receiving their vaccine.
- Staff and volunteers have a tool to fight the pandemic, not just take care of its effects.
- Positive comments from vaccine recipients and their families: "Thank you, South Heartland is doing a great job", "we so appreciate all you do for our community" and, from our largest clinic (370 doses administered): "I am here with my Mom, I thought that where I was vaccinated was run well, but your clinic is so organized and well managed."
- Positive comments from volunteer vaccinators, summarized as: "we like working at the South Heartland clinic – so organized, good planning and oversight, things go smoothly and we feel comfortable sharing what works and ideas for improvement"

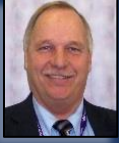



*-Janis Johnson, RN, BSN, Standards and Performance Manager*



## Vaccination Timeline (tentative)



Phase	Population Group	January	February	March	April	May	June - Dec
1A	Healthcare and long term care facility residents	[Red bar spanning all months]					
1B	Persons aged 65 and older		[Yellow bar spanning February to June]				
1B	First responders, utilities, homeless shelter staff, corrections staff, educators		[Yellow bar spanning February to May]				
1B	Funeral homes, grocery, food processing			[Yellow bar spanning March to June]			
1B	Transportation, US postal service, public transit			[Yellow bar spanning March to June]			
1C	Congregate living (residential treatments, corrections, homeless shelters)			[Blue bar spanning March to June]			
2A	Persons aged 50-64				[Dark blue bar spanning April to June]		
2B	Persons aged 16-49					[Dark blue bar spanning May to June]	

**South Heartland Bi-Monthly Board Report: Staff-Specific Program Updates, January-February 2021**

<p><b>Jim Morgan</b></p>  <p>Public Health Risk Coordinator</p>	<p><u>Emergency Preparedness and Environmental Health:</u>  PPE continues to take a big part my time. Liz and Garry are a large part of its success. Working with businesses that are interested in receiving vaccinations is starting to pick up. It seems like everyone thinks they are an essential agency and should get the vaccine first. Everyone I have talked to has been very understanding. Thanks to Nuckolls County and Clay County EM's who continue to be outstanding on their part in PPE distribution and working with the different agencies in their counties to be sure they have what they need. Jolene Laux, the Adams County Fairgrounds Manager, has been more than gracious in allowing us to store our PPE there, and furnish equipment and staff to help unload it. I was successful in getting funds from NDHHS to pay what was owed her back to March 2020 and she continues to get rental payments now.</p>
<p><b>Dorrann Hultman</b></p>  <p>Community Health Services Coordinator</p>	<p><u>Every Woman Matters Health Hub (EWM) Cancer Prevention /Immunization Program / Cancer Grant /CS-CASH:</u>  <u>COVID-19 response:</u> Jan/Feb COVID-19 vaccination activities have and will continue to be my focus as we progress through this pandemic. Activities include inventory and cold chain management of all vaccines, assisting clinics with vaccine storage needs (purchasing equipment for loan), supporting clinics in the state's provider approval process, allocating doses equitably across the district in line with the state distribution plan, coordinating and delivering COVID-19 vaccines to 1B providers in all counties, coordinating vaccination clinics in Hastings and continuing monthly VFC clinics.</p>
<p><b>Liz Chamberlain</b></p>  <p>Community Health Worker</p>	<p><u>COVID-19 Response:</u> Continue to distribute PPE to agencies one day/week, complete PPE inventory and update PPE spreadsheets. Most of my time is spent scheduling Vaccine appointments for 1B workers for both SHDHD and Bert's Pharmacy clinics, making sure everyone gets scheduled for 2<sup>nd</sup> doses if they are unable to make their original appointment. Also help Bert's Pharmacy schedule +65 participants for COVID Vaccine.</p>
<p><b>Brooke Wolfe</b></p>  <p>Public Health Promotions and Prevention Coordinator</p>	<p><u>COVID-19 Response:</u> I continue to assist with case investigations as our COVID response continues by managing registration data and assigning cases to case investigators. I continue to be the primary contact for schools as they are working through getting kids back in class after quarantines/isolation. I am also the point person for the transition to using Nebraska's vaccine registration system. Lastly, I have been working closely with Michele on our staffing plan as our COVID response continuously changes.</p> <p><u>Walkability/Rural Behavioral Health Network/ School Wellness:</u> I continue to support Sutton in their Walkability efforts through virtual meetings. Our Rural Health Network continues collecting surveys to understand behavioral health referral barriers. Lastly, I continue to work with 5 area schools as they implement the Whole School, Whole Child, Whole Community WSCC model through COVID safe practices.</p>



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<p align="center"><b>Jessica Warner</b></p>  <p align="center">Health Surveillance Coordinator</p>	<p><u>Disease Surveillance:</u> As of February 22nd, 4,436 South Heartland residents have tested positive for COVID, and 57 residents have passed away since the beginning of the pandemic. There have been 661 cases during the past two months, and SHDHD staff have investigated all but 22, which were sent to DHHS in early January. I have been monitoring the spread of variants across the US: There are currently 1,661 cases of the B.1.1.7/UK variant in 44 states, 22 cases of the B.1.351/South Africa variant in 10 states and 5 cases of the P.1 variant in 4 states. SHDHD has submitted three specimens for testing at NPHL. We will continue to submit specimens for whole genome sequencing as we become aware of cases that meet the qualifications. As of 2/22/21, no variants have been detected in Nebraska.</p> <p>I have also been working on an active case of tuberculosis, with just over 20 contacts. I have been coordinating with the TB program manager on testing and with the lab on arranging testing for appropriate contacts.</p> <p>We are transitioning to SalesForce, a new platform for COVID case investigations. We are in the process of working through the training and gaining access in order to transition by the end of the month.</p>
<p align="center"><b>Alex Stogdill</b></p>  <p align="center">Program Assistant</p>	<p><u>Immunization:</u> I helped coordinate our January VFC immunization clinic, as well as helped with data entry for the clinics.</p> <p><u>COVID-19 response:</u> My COVID-19 responsibilities have shifted to focus more on vaccine distribution/data entry. I have assisted in transferring vaccine to Mary Lanning, Brodstone, and Webster County Community Hospital, along with helping these facilities with their vaccine data entry into the Nebraska State Immunization Information System (NESIIS). Additionally, I have been working to coordinate and schedule for COVID-19 vaccination clinics. I have also worked to calculate and track positivity data, as well as COVID-19-related deaths for the South Heartland Health District.</p>
<p align="center"><b>Janis Johnson</b></p>  <p align="center">Standards and Performance Manager / Public Health Nurse</p>	<p><u>Immunizations:</u> COVID-19 vaccination clinics, planning, transporting vaccine to 2 provider clinics in Clay County.</p> <p><u>COVID-19 Response:</u> continue as primary contact for LTCF. COVID vaccine planning &amp; clinics, back up coordinator. Training &amp; supervision of new staff (13) &amp; logistics for staff assignments. Assurance of current guidance and messaging.</p> <p><u>Standards and Performance Management/Accreditation:</u> Preparing plans &amp; processes for Public Health Accreditation Board (PHAB) Annual Report, Year 1. Section 1 is due 3/31.</p> <p><u>Interim Assistant Director:</u> timesheets, orientation, working on timeline for staff performance management, assist Michele as needed.</p>
<p align="center"><b>Jean Korth</b></p>  <p align="center">Chronic Disease Prevention Program Assistant</p>	<p><u>COVID 19 response:</u> I continue to work on case investigations/contact tracing, as well as review of plans for events being held at venues that have a capacity of 500 people or greater. I answer phone calls and give guidance for smaller events or those with questions regarding the Directed Health Measures. I have assisted in entering vaccination information into the Nebraska State Immunization Information System.</p> <p><u>Maternal Child Health:</u> We are receiving signed MOU's back from daycares, childcare centers and schools., distributing toolkits and scheduling zoom meetings</p>
<p align="center"><b>Odeth Méndez-Peraza</b></p>  <p align="center">Bi-Lingual Community Health Worker</p>	<p><u>Community Health Worker (CHW):</u> Contact tracing and investigations to assist with interpretation. Monthly VFC clinic: I promote and schedule all of our clients, as well as interpret and translate for both VFC and COVID-19 as needed. Minority outreach to two meat processing entities: Aida Evans and I have presented at these businesses to educate their workers about COVID vaccinations and answer questions. A second presentation at each is planned for next week.</p>

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**Support Staff for COVID-19 Response:**

**Disease Investigation Capacity-Building:**

Heidi Davis (Full-time Disease Investigator)  
Juliann Marburger, LPN (PRN, Disease Investigation/Epi support)

**Part-time Hire:**

Samantha Martell (Bi-Lingual Receptionist, Epi Team support, Infection Prevention)  
Lucy Nielsen (Data Analysis, Dashboard)  
Aida Evans (Interpretation, Monitoring, Minority Outreach)  
Marlys Schmidt (Epi Team Support/Closing Cases/Vaccine Clinic Support)  
Jessica Struss (Epi Team support, Infection Prevention/Vaccine Clinic Support)  
Saylor Pershing (Data, Epi Team support)  
Garry Steele (PPE Management)

**Contract (Mary Lanning):**

Leslie Anderson, RN (Disease investigation follow up)

**Agency:**

Sam Coutts (Epi Team Support, Phones, Vaccine Clinic Support)

**Volunteer:**

Sue Rutt (Phones, Information)  
John Bohmfalk (Disease Investigation follow up)

**Vaccine Clinic Staffing Support:**

Mary Lanning is providing some staffing for clinics, including pharmacy to draw up vaccine, vaccinators, and clerical/health information support.