

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

September 24, 2021

8:44 AM

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New cases of COVID-19 reported

KEARNEY – Three hundred sixty-seven (367) new cases of COVID-19 were reported by Two Rivers Public Health Department in the seven-county region it serves for the week of September 17-23. Please check the Two Rivers website for more detailed information for our citizens on current COVID-19.

Two Rivers Public Health Department is quickly becoming overwhelmed with COVID-19 case investigations. Due to this, positive individuals under 18, and 70 and older are being contacted as time allows. Every person who is positive for COVID-19 will receive a letter with isolation and quarantine recommendations. It should be noted that when a test is completed, the testing facility/healthcare provider is responsible for notifying the person of the test results. The facility then enters the results into the system that goes to the State of Nebraska reporting center. Once those test results are received by the state, TRPHD is then notified of positive tests. Unfortunately, this process can take 48-72 hours to complete.

Two Rivers Public Health Department asks our community to take measures to stop the spread of COVID-19. These measures include masking, social distancing and increased hand washing and sanitizing.

Two Rivers Public Health Department began reporting cases in each county through an average daily case rate in order to further de-identify the data, and help the public identify trends in cases. To calculate the daily rate of new infections, we look at the average number of newly confirmed cases in the last 7 days per 100,000 residents. Using the population size in the calculation helps us more easily compare larger and smaller counties. A larger county would be expected to have more cases because of the larger population, but expressing the rate per 100,000 residents enables a more equal analysis.

7-day rolling averages for this week include:

- Buffalo County – 53.22 daily cases per 100,000 residents
- Dawson County – 59.94 daily cases per 100,000 residents
- Franklin County – 38.36 daily cases per 100,000 residents
- Gosper County-- 28.72 daily cases per 100,000 residents
- Harlan County – 12.68 daily cases per 100,000 residents
- Kearney County – 37.39 daily cases per 100,000 residents
- Phelps County – 80.65 daily cases per 100,000 residents

Remaining vigilant to prevent the spread of COVID-19 is more important than ever. Your hard work and efforts made in your daily lives should be applauded. Changes are extremely hard, but they are important for the future of Nebraska and our citizens. The more steps you and your family can take to prevent the spread of COVID-19, the safer everyone will be.

ABOUT TWO RIVERS PUBLIC HEALTH DEPARTMENT

Two Rivers Public Health Department engages collaborative partners, community leaders and the public to promote healthy lifestyles, provide preventative education, assure environmental quality, and create more healthy and safe communities for all who live within the district. Follow TRPHD on Facebook and Twitter @2RPHD