FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
January 6, 2022
12:29 PM

Weekly COVID-19 Risk Update
KEARNEY – Two Rivers Public Health updated the weekly risk dial on Thursday, January 6, 2022. The risk dial remains to the orange “Elevated” level of risk.

398 cases of COVID-19 were recorded in TRPHD between December 29 - January 4. Over 16% of all tests recorded in the district are positive. TRPHD’s 3 largest cities saw test positivity rates (excluding routine testing) between 20-30% (Lexington), 40-50% (Holdrege) and 15-20% (Kearney).

As of Wednesday morning, a little under 50% of the total population of TRPHD has received the minimum prescribed dose of the COVID-19 vaccine. The Nebraska DHHS estimates that the Omicron variant of the coronavirus is responsible for the current surge in cases. The risk of hospitalization or serious illness following infection is significantly higher for unvaccinated persons.

As of Wednesday morning, there were 9 available ICU beds in TRPHD. About 80% of patients who are on ventilator support across the district or are admitted in the ICU have an active COVID diagnosis. Med/Surg bed availability is 25% across the district currently.

A public COVID testing site is now open in Kearney city at the Buffalo County Fairgrounds. Testing results are available the same day and are offered Mondays & Wednesdays 9:30AM - 12:30PM. Those desirous of COVID testing are required to register at www.trphd.org for scheduling.

TRPHD strongly urges all unvaccinated vaccine-eligible residents to avail of the COVID vaccination through their healthcare provider, pharmacy or TRPHD. For schedule of vaccination clinics, see www.trphd.org.

For these reasons, the risk dial is lowered slightly from last week in the ‘elevated’ (orange) zone. The dial reading reflects increased ICU beds, lowered med/surg bed availability and consistent test positivity rates across TRPHD.

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.