

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

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SHDHD reports 123 new lab-confirmed COVID-19 cases in past 3 days; 2 more COVID deaths

**Hastings, Neb** – Today South Heartland District Health Department (SHDHD) officials reported 123 new lab-confirmed COVID-19 cases in the past three days (Tuesday – Thursday) for a new cumulative total of 1061. The new confirmed cases for the three-day period include: 58 in Adams, 11 in Clay, 20 in Nuckolls and 34 in Webster. By county, the cumulative case counts are: 758 cases in Adams, 139 cases in Clay, 85 cases in Nuckolls, and 79 cases in Webster.

“We are sad to report South Heartland’s fifteenth and sixteenth coronavirus COVID-19-related deaths of previously reported cases,” said SHDHD Executive Director Michele Bever. SHDHD does not report deaths until the department receives notification regarding cause of death on the death certificate. Bever reported that both deaths were Adams County residents. One was a man in his 70s and the other a man in his 80s, both with underlying medical conditions.

Bever said COVID-19 can be severe disease and people should take it seriously. “While some people have moderate symptoms and feel ill for a couple of weeks, others can have severe symptoms that lead to hospitalization or death. Many other people may experience very mild, allergy-like symptoms, or no symptoms at all (asymptomatic), and are able to spread the virus to others unknowingly and unintentionally,” she said.

“The virus takes advantage of our social interactions. This is how it spreads,” she said. At the time of the news release on Thursday, Bever said SHDHD had already logged 166 cases for the week. “We need to change this course,” she said. “If we continue on this path, we can expect our schools, worksites, and health care system to be severely impacted.”

“Here’s what you can do to help turn the trend down: avoid crowded places, avoid close contact, and avoid confined spaces,” Bever said. “Be vigilant, protect yourselves and others everywhere you go, in everything you do. That includes maintaining six feet distance from people you don’t live with and masking up to reduce risk of close contact exposures.”

*Case Count Correction: SHDHD corrected a duplication for the week ending October 10, which reduced the Nuckolls County case total by one and reduced the SHDHD total weekly case count to 150. The totals listed above are based on this correction.*

South Heartland District case counts and trends can be found on [SHDHD’s dashboard](#) of local COVID-19 case statistics. This dashboard, along with updates, guidance, news releases and other COVID-19 information and links can be found on the SHDHD website: [www.southheartlandhealth.org](http://www.southheartlandhealth.org). The Nebraska Department of Health and Human Services (DHHS) provides daily updates to Nebraska's coronavirus COVID-19 cases on their Data Dashboard at <http://dhhs.ne.gov/Pages/Coronavirus>.

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