

NEWS RELEASE

February 28, 2022

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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COVID-19 Update for Southwest Nebraska

- 74 cases of COVID-19 were recorded in Southwest Nebraska Public Health Department (SWNPHD) between February 21 - February 27, 2022. 43 of these cases were reported as part of a case audit from the Omicron wave in January and early February of this year. The weekly average of COVID positives dropped from 53 to 11 in the past month. About 9% of tests were positive in SWNPHD in the past month.
- The state of Nebraska is providing free COVID-19 at-home test kits at multiple locations throughout the health district, including at SWNPHD's McCook office. Residents can get up to 6 test kits that include an official lab report after a free telehealth consultation. Find more locations on the COVID information page of swhealth.ne.gov.
- Pharmacies in SWNPHD still have multiple doses of COVID-19 antivirals available at no cost. Residents can ask their local healthcare provider about prescribing these antivirals if they are at higher risk for severe illness from COVID-19.
- Vaccination rates have plateaued for almost all age groups across SWNPHD: 42% of all residents are fully vaccinated, but the increase in vaccination rates has largely stagnated or slowed down considerably. Less than a fourth of people below 35 are fully vaccinated, as compared to almost 75% of residents aged 65+.

Weekly report for Feb 21 – Feb 27, 2022

Overview

The weekly report will look at COVID-19 cases in SWNPHD across different time periods, presenting graphs showing daily progress of cases and a weekly summary in conclusion

- The first table describes total COVID positive cases detected from **Feb 21 – Feb 27** (1 week) and **Jan 31 – Feb 27** (4 weeks) in Chase, Dundy, Hayes, Hitchcock, Frontier, Furnas, Keith, Perkins, and Red Willow counties. Positive results are described as weekly and monthly **COVID cases/10,000 population**.
- The second table describes all COVID tests conducted in SWNPHD from **Feb 21 – Feb 27** (1 week) and **Jan 31 – Feb 27** (4 weeks). We describe **total tests, positive cases and test positivity rate** by age and gender.
- The third table shows the **proportion of persons fully vaccinated** in SWNPHD. We define “fully vaccinated” as the proportion of persons who have received the minimum recommended dose (2 for Pfizer & Moderna; 1 for Janssen vaccines). Data is described by **county and age** category. Data current as of **Feb 27, 2022**.

- The first graph looks at the weekly progress of the pandemic from **April 1, 2020 – Feb 27, 2022**, across all 9 counties in SWNPHD. We describe the **daily COVID positive case rate (7-day rolling average¹)** across SWNPHD.
- The second graph describes the **average daily case rate (7-day rolling) by age** from **April 1, 2020 – Feb 27, 2022**, dividing the population by **10-year age categories**.
- The third set of graphs describe the **weekly increase in proportion of SWNPHD residents vaccinated fully (one or two doses as indicated)** from **Jan 5, 2021 – Feb 27, 2022** in each of the 9 counties in SWNPHD, depicted by **cumulative vaccination rates**.

¹ 7-day rolling average refers to the sum of the cases reported on that day and the preceding 6 days divided by 7. This number is presented for each day to ‘smooth out’ the line for cases.

The table below describes COVID positives/10,000 population and the positivity rate for the **past week (Feb 21 – Feb 27, 2022) & the past 4 weeks (Jan 31 – Feb 27, 2022)**

	Total Population	Feb 21 – Feb 27 (1 week)		Jan 31 – Feb 27 (4 weeks).	
		Positive cases/10,000 population	Test Positivity rate	Positive cases/10,000 population	Test Positivity rate
Chase	3,734	0.0	0.0%	50.9	6.4%
Dundy	2,023	9.9	3.7%	44.5	2.0%
Frontier	2,609	7.7	8.3%	80.5	13.8%
Furnas	4,786	10.4	6.0%	123.3	15.6%
Hayes	943	42.4	22.2%	63.6	13.3%
Hitchcock	2,843	24.6	3.3%	109.0	5.9%
Keith	8,099	17.3	8.1%	84.0	9.5%
Perkins	2,907	0.0	0.0%	51.6	7.0%
Red Willow	10,806	37.0	12.1%	112.0	9.9%
TOTAL	38,750	19.1	7.7%	90.1	8.8%

The table below describes COVID tests conducted, positives and the positivity rate by age and gender for the **past week (Feb 14 – Feb 20, 2022) & the past 4 weeks (Jan 24 – Feb 20, 2022)**

Age (in yrs)	Feb 21 – Feb 27 (1 week)			Jan 31 – Feb 27 (4 weeks).		
	Tests	Positive cases	Test Positivity rate	Tests	Positive cases	Test Positivity rate
0-17	85	12	14.1%	297	41	13.8%
18-29	118	8	6.8%	544	54	9.9%
30-39	88	10	11.4%	392	37	9.4%
40-49	124	8	6.5%	514	45	8.8%
50-59	118	8	6.8%	585	54	9.2%
60-69	137	13	9.5%	522	52	10.0%
70-79	81	5	6.2%	376	31	8.2%
80-89	204	10	4.9%	756	35	4.6%
Total	955	74	7.7%	3,986	349	8.8%
Gender						
Female	677	38	5.6%	2,865	188	6.6%
Male	270	34	12.6%	1,105	155	14.0%
Data missing/ not disclosed	8	2	0.0%	16	6	37.5%
Total	955	74	7.7%	3,986	349	8.8%

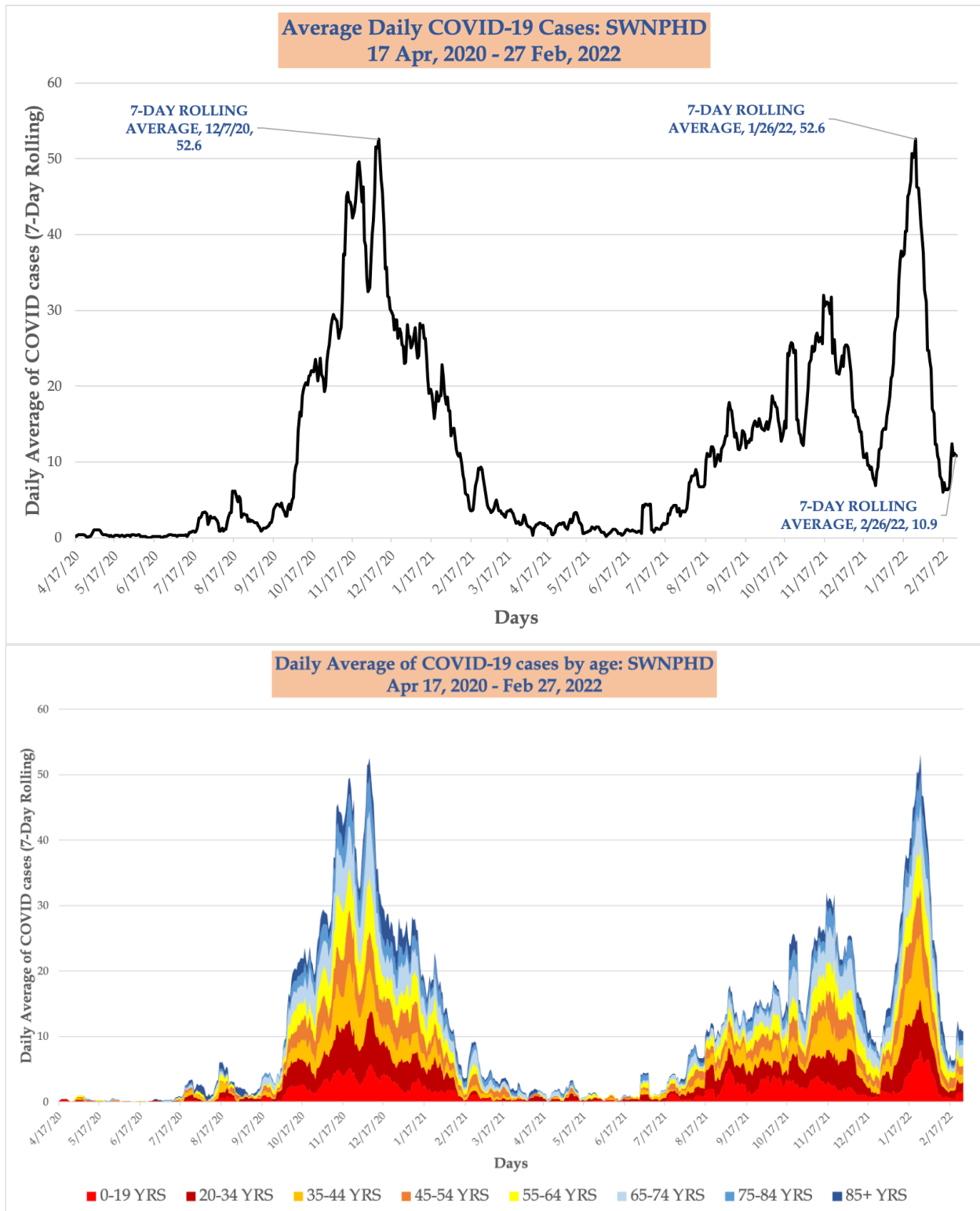
Details of vaccination rates by age in each of the nine counties in Southwest Nebraska Public Health Department is shown below. The legend for color codes used is also displayed. Percentages have been rounded off to the nearest whole number. Vaccines are currently available to all eligible residents aged 5 years and over.

Only 1st (Janssen) & 2nd doses (Moderna & Johnson & Johnson) have been considered, booster doses have not been counted to calculate “completely vaccinated” rate. Date spans the period from 15 Dec 2020 – 27 Feb 2022.

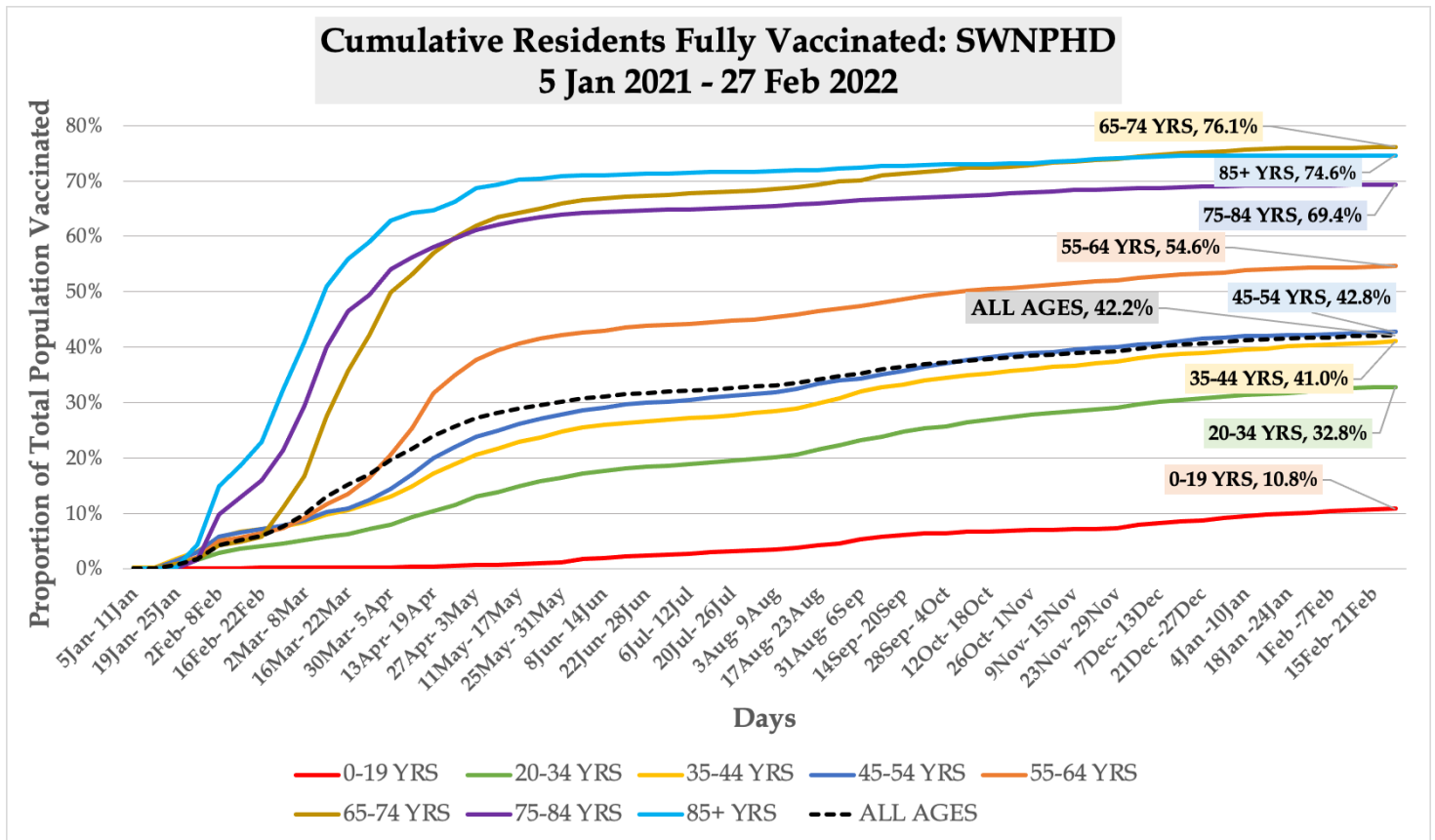
	0-19 YRS	20-34 YRS	35-44 YRS	45-54 YRS	55-64 YRS	65-74 YRS	75-84 YRS	85+ YRS	ALL AGES
Chase	11%	34%	38%	47%	49%	83%	74%	65%	43%
Dundy	7%	21%	22%	33%	41%	65%	100%	42%	30%
Frontier	6%	30%	35%	43%	50%	62%	54%	100%	37%
Furnas	15%	40%	48%	49%	60%	83%	92%	78%	50%
Hayes	8%	23%	33%	20%	30%	76%	48%	50%	29%
Hitchcock	6%	22%	34%	33%	47%	76%	51%	64%	35%
Keith	14%	36%	44%	43%	61%	64%	66%	85%	45%
Perkins	10%	30%	40%	45%	52%	72%	81%	56%	40%
Red Willow	11%	34%	45%	43%	59%	93%	68%	87%	43%
SWNPHD	11%	33%	41%	43%	55%	76%	69%	75%	42%

0% - 24%	Less than 1/4th received 1 or 2 dose as recommended
25% - 49%	1/4ths to 1/2 received 1 or 2 dose as recommended
50%- 74%	1/2 to 3/4ths received 1 or 2 dose as recommended
75% & higher	Over 3/4ths received 1 or 2 dose as recommended

- The first graph below describes the **average daily number of new cases** across all 9 counties of Southwest Nebraska Public Health Department from 5 May 2020 – 27 February 2022. Daily average is depicted by the 7-day rolling average of cases. The second graph describes the daily average of cases by age. The width of the graph represents the average number of new COVID cases for the previous 7-days, and the individual colors describe the ages.
- In general, blue = 65+ years, Yellow & Orange = 35-64 year olds, Red = Less than 35 year olds.



- The graph below describes the **weekly increase in the proportion of fully vaccinated persons (1 or 2 doses as indicated) in SWNPHD** from 5 January 2021 – 27 February 2022. The height of the graph corresponds to the cumulative (total) proportion of persons of that age group fully vaccinated by the end of that week.



SWNPHD is located at 404 West 10th St (1 block north of Arby’s) in McCook and can be reached by calling 308-345-4223. The website www.swhealth.ne.gov contains many resources and additional information helpful to prevent disease, promote and protect health. You can also follow SWNPHD on Facebook and Instagram. SWNPHD serves Chase, Dundy, Frontier, Furnas, Hayes, Hitchcock, Keith, Perkins, and Red Willow counties.

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