

NEWS RELEASE

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For Immediate Release

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COVID-19 Report for October

Southwest Nebraska Public Health Department (SWNPHD) saw 85 cases of COVID-19 in the month of October 2022. In the past week (Oct 25 – Oct 31) 21 cases of COVID-19 were recorded. This is similar to the average new weekly cases reported for the last two months. The COVID test positivity rate is between 6-10%, but testing has decreased dramatically over the past month, about 900 tests per month compared to about 1500 in August & September.

43% of all SWNPHD residents have received the minimum vaccination dose (1 or 2 shots). About 52% of these persons have received at least one booster dose, including 71% of those aged 60 years and over. The bivalent boosters that protect against 2 strains of COVID-19 are available at many locations throughout southwest Nebraska. SWNPHD recommends having a booster dose within at least the last 6 months to reduce the risk of hospitalization or severe illness from COVID-19.

Monthly report Oct 1– Oct 31, 2022

The monthly 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 in the **past week (Oct 25 – Oct 31, 2022)** & the past month (**Oct 1 – Oct 31, 2022**) in Chase, Dundy, Hayes, Hitchcock, Frontier, Furnas, Keith, Perkins, and Red Willow counties. Positive results are described as bi-weekly and monthly **COVID cases/10,000 population**.
- The second table describes all COVID tests conducted in SWNPHD from **Oct 25 – Oct 31, 2022 (1 week)** & **Oct 1 – Oct 31, 2022 (1 month)**. 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 **Nov 1, 2022**.
- The first graph looks at the progress of the pandemic from **April 1, 2020 – Oct 31, 2022** across all 9 counties in SWNPHD. We describe the **daily COVID positive case rate (7-day rolling average¹)** across SWNPHD². The second graph describes the **same data**, dividing the population by **10-year age categories**.

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.

² (7-day rolling average) test positivity rate = (Sum of positive results for preceding 7 days) / (Sum of all tests conducted in the preceding 7 days)

- The third graph describes **daily COVID tests** in SWNPHD from **April 17, 2020 – Oct 31, 2022** further divided as **positive** or **negative**. The graph also describes the average **test positivity rate (7-day rolling average)**³.

³ (7-day rolling average) test positivity rate = (Sum of positive results for preceding 7 days) / (Sum of all tests conducted in the preceding 7 days)

The table below describes COVID positives/10,000 population and the positivity rate for the **past week (Oct 25 – Oct 31, 2022)** & the past month (**Oct 1 – Oct 31, 2022**)

	Total Population	Oct 25 – Oct 31 (1 week)		Oct 1 – Oct 31 (1 month).	
		Positive cases/10,000 population	Test Positivity rate	Positive cases/10,000 population	Test Positivity rate
Chase	3,734	0.0	0.0%	13.4	10.4%
Dundy	2,023	14.8	2.3%	29.7	3.2%
Frontier	2,609	7.7	15.4%	23.0	10.9%
Furnas	4,786	14.6	46.7%	29.3	29.2%
Hayes	943	0.0	0.0%	10.6	4.8%
Hitchcock	2,843	0.0	0.0%	7.0	0.9%
Keith	8,099	7.4	19.4%	37.0	21.7%
Perkins	2,907	3.4	14.3%	17.2	27.8%
Red Willow	10,806	1.9	4.3%	14.8	12.7%
TOTAL	38,750	5.4	6.7%	21.9	9.9%

The table below describes COVID tests conducted, positives and the positivity rate by age and gender for the **past week (Oct 25 – Oct 31, 2022)** & the past month (**Oct 1 – Oct 31, 2022**)

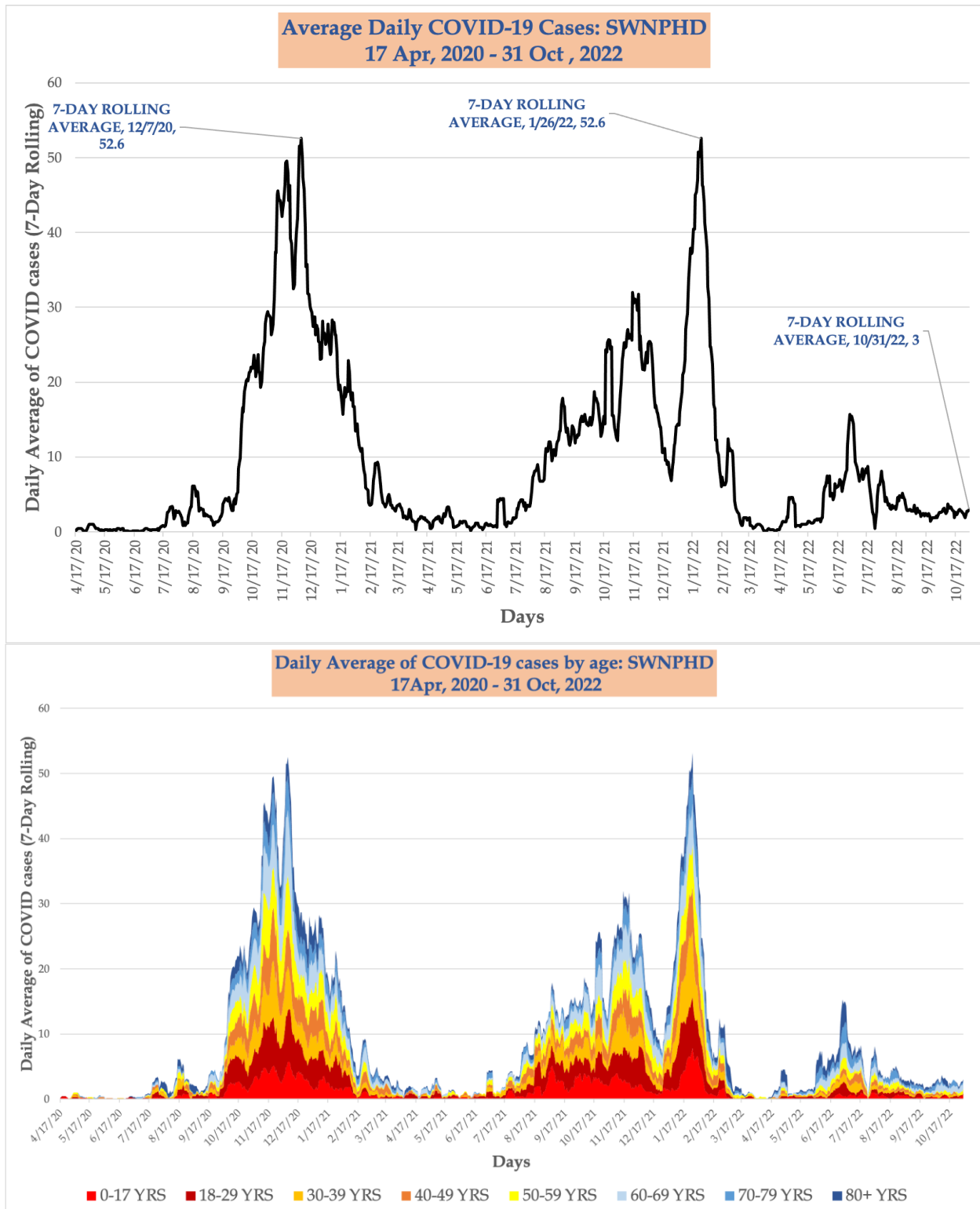
Age (in yrs)	Oct 25 – Oct 31 (1 week)			Oct 1 – Oct 31 (1 month).		
	Tests	Positive cases	Test Positivity rate	Tests	Positive cases	Test Positivity rate
0-17	26	4	15.4%	68	8	11.8%
18-29	36	2	5.6%	103	7	6.8%
30-39	26	2	7.7%	76	8	10.5%
40-49	18	1	5.6%	65	5	7.7%
50-59	54	2	3.7%	124	9	7.3%
60-69	47	7	14.9%	158	28	17.7%
70-79	50	2	4.0%	104	11	10.6%
80-89	56	1	1.8%	158	9	5.7%
Total	313	21	6.7%	856	85	9.9%
Gender						
Female	230	14	6.1%	593	50	8.4%
Male	83	7	8.4%	263	35	13.3%
Missing/ did not disclose	0	0	0.0%	0	0	0.0%
Total	313	21	6.7%	856	85	9.9%

- Details of vaccination rates by age in each of the nine counties in Southwest Nebraska Public health District is shown below. The legend for color codes 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 (Moderna & Johnson & Johnson) have been considered, booster doses have not been counted to calculate the “completely vaccinated” rate. Data spans the period from **15 Dec, 2020 – 31 Oct, 2022.**

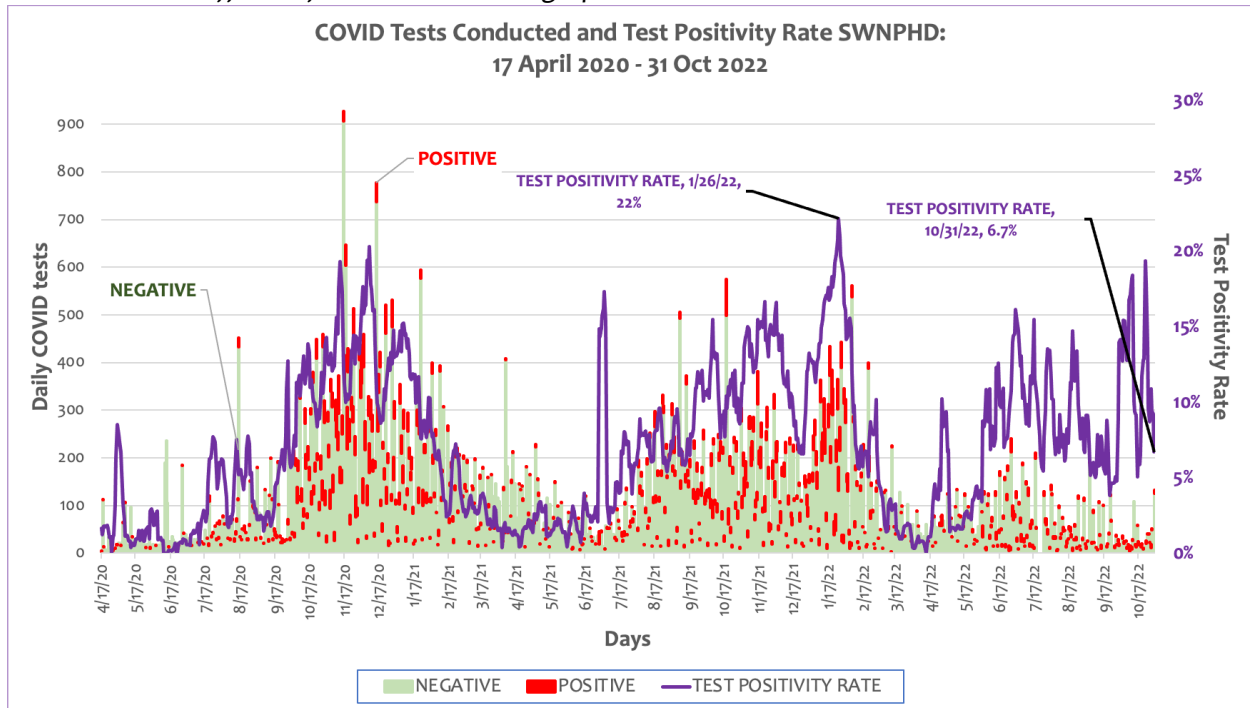
	0-19 YRS	20-34 YRS	35-44 YRS	45-54 YRS	55-64 YRS	65-74 YRS	75-84 YRS	85+ YRS	ALL AGES
Chase	12%	35%	39%	47%	50%	84%	75%	69%	43%
Dundy	7%	21%	22%	33%	39%	66%	100%	41%	30%
Frontier	8%	30%	36%	44%	50%	63%	55%	98%	38%
Furnas	17%	43%	50%	52%	63%	85%	93%	75%	52%
Hayes	9%	22%	35%	16%	28%	68%	48%	43%	28%
Hitchcock	8%	25%	37%	36%	48%	77%	50%	66%	37%
Keith	15%	38%	44%	43%	61%	65%	67%	86%	46%
Perkins	10%	32%	41%	47%	53%	75%	81%	51%	41%
Red Willow	11%	35%	46%	45%	59%	94%	69%	86%	44%
SWNPHD	12%	34%	42%	44%	55%	77%	70%	74%	43%

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 17 Apr 2020 – 31 Oct 2022. Daily average is depicted by the 7-day rolling average of cases.
- The second graph describes daily average of cases by age. Graph width represents average number of new COVID cases for the previous 7 days, and individual colors describe age
- In general, blue = 65+ years, Yellow & Orange = 35-64 year olds, Red = Less than 35 years olds.



- The graphs below describe the **daily COVID tests** in SWNPHD from **April 17, 2020 – Oct 31, 2022** further divided as **positive or negative** .
- The graph also describes the average **test positivity rate (7-day rolling average)**⁴ The graph depicts the entire district, ie Chase, Dundy, Furnas, Frontier, Hayes, Hitchcock, Keith, Perkins and Red Willow counties. **Test Positivity Rate in SWNPHD from 25 Oct – 31 Oct, 2022 is 7%**
- The height of the bar graph represents the total tests conducted on that day.
- The running line graph tracks 7-day positivity rate among all COVID tests in the last 28 months.
- Scale is different for the bar and line graph – see both axes



Southwest Nebraska Public Health Department serves Chase, Dundy, Frontier, Furnas, Hayes, Hitchcock, Keith, Perkins, and Red Willow counties. You can follow us on Facebook and Instagram or view the website at www.swhealth.ne.gov which contains many resources and additional information helpful to prevent disease, promote and protect health. Call (308) 345-4223; one number three locations, McCook, Imperial, and Ogallala.

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⁴ (7-day rolling average) test positivity rate = (Sum of positive results for preceding 7 days) / (Sum of all tests conducted in the preceding 7 days)