

## NEWS RELEASE

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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### COVID-19 Report for September 2022

COVID test positivity rates as well as testing has decreased in Southwest Nebraska Public Health Department (SWNPHD) over the past month, with 250 tests per week as compared to 310 tests per week in June and July. Only 14 cases of COVID-19 were recorded in SWNPHD in the past week (Sep 28 – Oct 4). About 16 new cases were detected on average every week for the last six weeks.

Three deaths due to COVID-19 were reported to SWNPHD in September. Flu cases are expected to be higher than normal this season, and COVID-19 cases are rising in Europe already. For previous waves, cases started to increase about a month after in the U.S. Getting a flu shot and COVID booster now, before case rates rise, is the best way to prevent severe illness. Both shots can be given at the same time or separately. 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 70% of those aged 55 years and over.

#### Monthly report Sep 1– Sep 30, 2022

- The first table describes total COVID positive cases detected in the **past week (Sep 28 – Oct 4, 2022)** & the past month (**Sep 1 – Sep 30, 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 **Sep 28 – Oct 4, 2022 (1 week)** & **Sep 1 – Sep 30, 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 **Oct 4, 2022**.
- The first graph looks at the progress of the pandemic from **April 1, 2020 – Sep 30, 2022** across all 9 counties in SWNPHD. We describe the **daily COVID positive case rate (7-day rolling average<sup>1</sup>)** across SWNPHD<sup>2</sup>. The second graph describes the **same data**, dividing the population by **10-year age categories**.

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<sup>1</sup> 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.

<sup>2</sup> (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 – Aug 1, 2022** further divided as **positive** or **negative**. The graph also describes the average **test positivity rate (7-day rolling average)**<sup>3</sup>.

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<sup>3</sup> (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 (Sep 28 – Oct 4, 2022)** & the past month (**Sep 1 – Sep 30, 2022**)

	Total Population	Sep 28 – Oct 4 (1 week)		Sep 1 – Sep 30 (1 month).	
		Positive cases/10,000 population	Test Positivity rate	Positive cases/10,000 population	Test Positivity rate
Chase	3,734	5.4	28.6%	10.7	12.1%
Dundy	2,023	4.9	8.3%	9.9	2.4%
Frontier	2,609	7.7	20.0%	7.7	6.5%
Furnas	4,786	4.2	40.0%	23.0	20.8%
Hayes	943	0.0	0.0%	10.6	7.7%
Hitchcock	2,843	0.0	0.0%	10.6	1.3%
Keith	8,099	3.7	13.0%	25.9	20.0%
Perkins	2,907	0.0	0.0%	3.4	7.1%
Red Willow	10,806	3.7	17.4%	16.7	3.6%
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>38,750</b>	<b>3.6</b>	<b>16.9%</b>	<b>16.3</b>	<b>6.0%</b>

The table below describes COVID tests conducted, positives and the positivity rate by age and gender for the **past week (Sep 28 – Oct 4, 2022)** & the past month (**Sep 1 – Sep 30, 2022**)

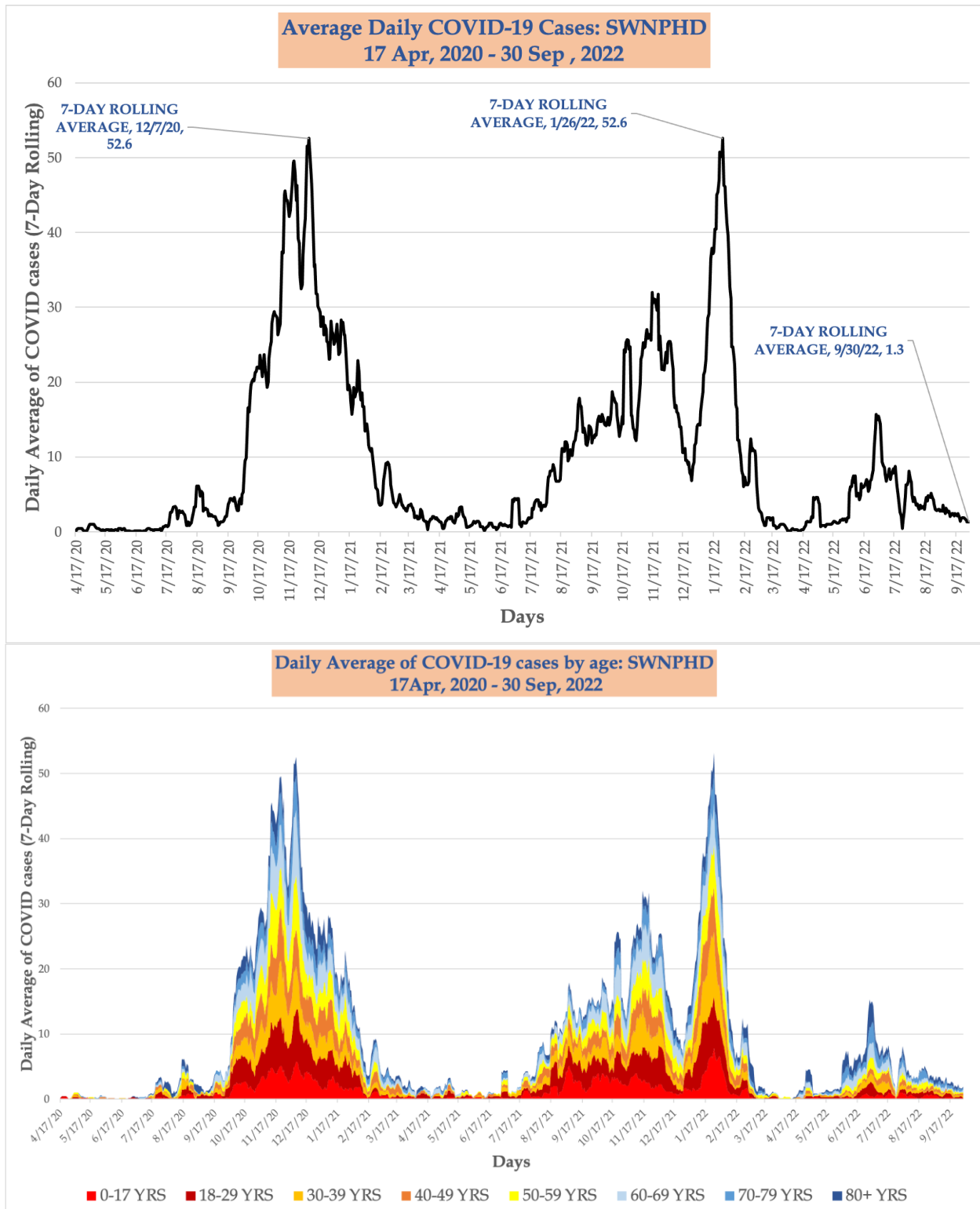
Age (in yrs)	Sep 28 – Oct 4 (1 week)			Sep 1 – Sep 30 (1 month).		
	Tests	Positive cases	Test Positivity rate	Tests	Positive cases	Test Positivity rate
0-17	14	1	7.1%	73	4	5.5%
18-29	12	0	0.0%	120	8	6.7%
30-39	12	3	25.0%	115	8	7.0%
40-49	13	3	23.1%	136	8	5.9%
50-59	8	1	12.5%	160	5	3.1%
60-69	10	3	30.0%	151	8	5.3%
70-79	8	2	25.0%	77	12	15.6%
80-89	6	1	16.7%	224	10	4.5%
<b>Total</b>	<b>83</b>	<b>14</b>	<b>16.9%</b>	<b>1,056</b>	<b>63</b>	<b>6.0%</b>
<b>Gender</b>						
Female	48	8	16.7%	766	41	5.4%
Male	35	6	17.1%	290	22	7.6%
Missing/ did not disclose	0	0	0.0%	0	0	0.0%
<b>Total</b>	<b>83</b>	<b>14</b>	<b>16.9%</b>	<b>1,056</b>	<b>63</b>	<b>6.0%</b>

- 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 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 1<sup>st</sup> (Janssen) & 2<sup>nd</sup> doses (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 – 30 Sep, 2022**.

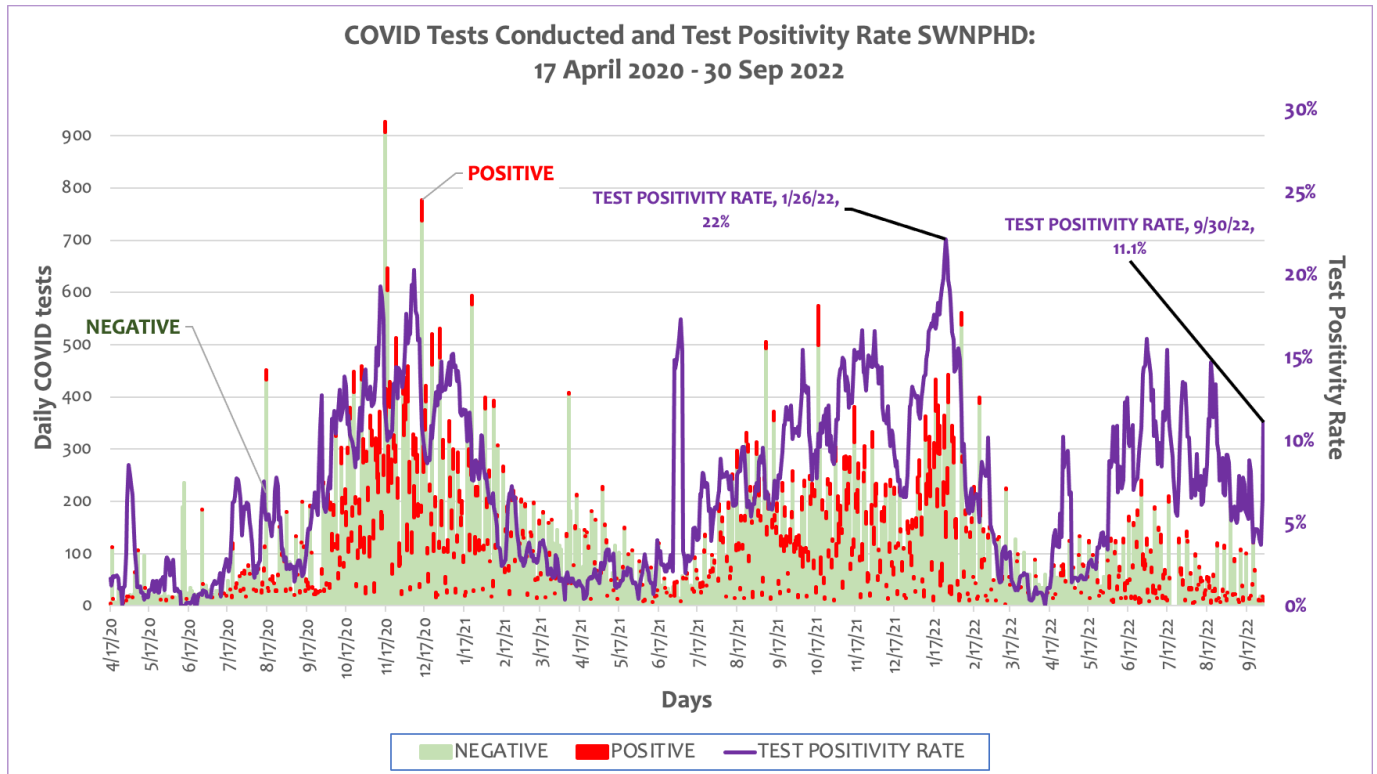
	0-19 YRS	20-34 YRS	35-44 YRS	45-54 YRS	55-64 YRS	65-74 YRS	75-84 YRS	85+ YRS	ALL AGES
Chase	12%	35%	39%	47%	50%	83%	74%	68%	43%
Dundy	7%	21%	22%	33%	40%	67%	100%	41%	31%
Frontier	7%	30%	37%	44%	50%	62%	55%	98%	37%
Furnas	17%	42%	50%	51%	62%	83%	93%	76%	51%
Hayes	8%	23%	33%	19%	30%	71%	51%	43%	28%
Hitchcock	8%	24%	36%	35%	47%	76%	50%	66%	36%
Keith	15%	38%	44%	44%	61%	65%	68%	86%	46%
Perkins	10%	32%	41%	48%	53%	74%	81%	53%	41%
Red Willow	12%	35%	46%	45%	59%	94%	69%	86%	44%
<b>SWNPHD</b>	<b>12%</b>	<b>34%</b>	<b>42%</b>	<b>44%</b>	<b>55%</b>	<b>77%</b>	<b>70%</b>	<b>74%</b>	<b>43%</b>

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 – 30 Sep 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 – Sep 30, 2022** further divided as **positive or negative**.
- The graph also describes the average **test positivity rate (7-day rolling average)**<sup>4</sup> 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 24 Sep – 30 Sep, 2022 is 11%**
- 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 27 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](http://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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<sup>4</sup> (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)