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For Immediate Release

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Treatment Available for Flu and COVID-19

A national program called Home Test to Treat provides free telehealth, testing, and treatment for flu and COVID-19. Southwest Nebraska Public Health Department (SWNPHD) is monitoring the viruses going around the health district that are making many people sick, including influenza (flu) and COVID-19.

“Cases of RSV have finally peaked and are starting to go down, and now we are seeing influenza rates increasing,” reports Melissa Propp, Clinic Manager at SWNPHD. “We encourage testing for these viruses to help you understand what illness you may be experiencing.”

The Home Test to Treat program will send individuals who are uninsured, enrolled in Medicare, Medicaid, IHS, or VA Healthcare free at-home COVID-19/flu tests even if they are not currently positive. For those with insurance, COVID-19 home test kits can be found at local pharmacies or ordered at no cost from [covid.gov/test](https://www.covid.gov/test).

If you do test positive for flu or COVID-19, treatments are available that can reduce your chances of needing to be hospitalized. Home Test to Treat provides access to free flu and COVID-19 telehealth visits and treatment for anyone who tests positive for either condition. Treatment can be shipped to you or picked up at a local pharmacy at no cost. Regardless of insurance status, anyone with a current positive COVID-19 test may enroll for the free telehealth treatment.

To register for this free program, go to test2treat.org or call 1-800-682-2829.

For more information contact Melissa Propp, Clinic Manager at 308-345-4223. Southwest Nebraska Public Health Department serves Chase, Dundy, Frontier, Furnas, Hayes, Hitchcock, Keith, Perkins, and Red Willow counties. The website at www.swhealth.ne.gov 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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