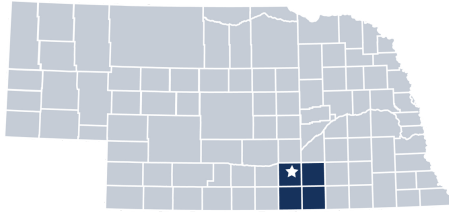




SOUTH HEARTLAND DISTRICT
HEALTH DEPARTMENT

Serving Adams, Clay, Nuckolls, and Webster Counties



ANNUAL REPORT 2020





SPOTLIGHT: COVID-19

South Heartland District Health Department (SHDHD) began preparing for COVID-19 in mid-January and activated the Public Health Coordination Center on January 29. Staff monitored the activity in China, watching the number of cases double each week, aware and preparing as cases spread to the U.S. The health department worked closely with a college as they prepared for students to travel abroad and developed plans for immediate quarantine upon arrival home. On March 18, the first local case of COVID-19 was a member of a travel group; there was no spread due to thorough planning and detailed implementation. **Communications:** Incident command structure with daily staff briefings, regular communications with community leaders and state/local partners, including hospital emergency departments and health care providers to answer questions and facilitate testing, and regular news releases and press conferences for public updates. **Public Health Response:** Staff redirected from their usual duties for active monitoring, case and contact investigations, quarantine/isolation instructions, personal protective equipment (PPE) distribution, event safety plan review, mass testing, and responding to the huge call volume. We expanded staff hours and added capacity by recruiting volunteers and hiring/contracting. We implemented worksite prevention practices at the office and expanded technological capabilities/policies for working remotely. We set performance standards for our response, such as timely identification of close contacts, and provided sector-specific, language-appropriate, and health literate guidance on preparing for and responding to COVID-19.

(Continued)

MICHELE BEVER

Health Director

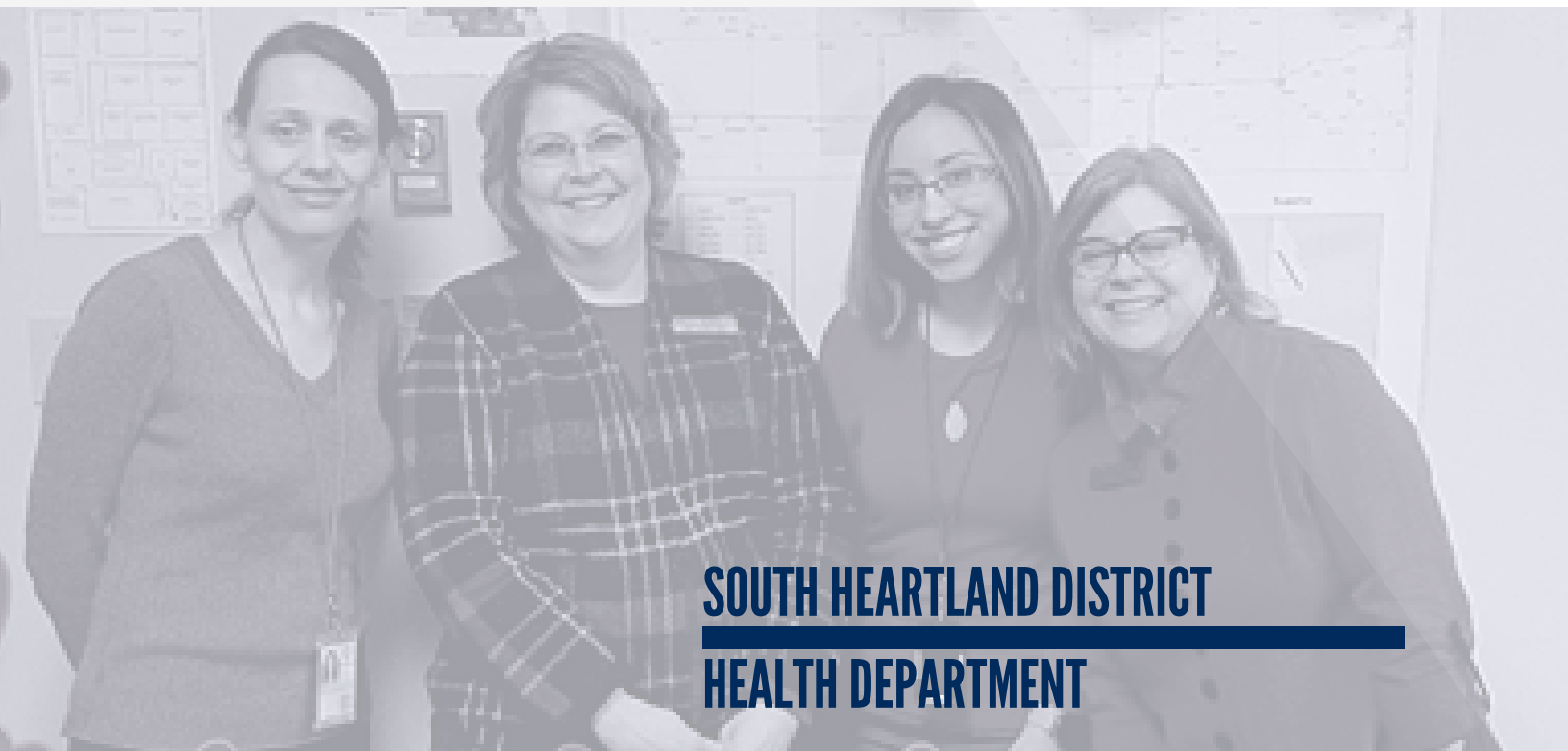
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www.southheartlandhealth.org

CONTINUED SPOTLIGHT: COVID-19

We worked with community leaders and governmental officials to coordinate the response, identify needs, and provide joint messages. SHDHD began tracking COVID-19 indicators (new daily/cumulative cases, symptoms, hospitalizations, deaths) sharing summaries on SHDHD's COVID-19 Dashboard. By June 30, the COVID-19 case count was 330 and our staff had connected with 1,617 individuals for investigation and isolation or quarantine placement to help prevent the spread of COVID-19. A stressful first five months, but staff commitment to serving the public and protecting the health of our communities is unwavering!



SOUTH HEARTLAND DISTRICT
HEALTH DEPARTMENT

ABOUT THIS REPORT

This report includes examples of efforts of **South Heartland District Health Department** to make the “Good Life” a healthy one in their jurisdiction. The following examples reflect work supported through multiple sources of funding, including monies from the Nebraska Health Care Funding Act (HCFA).

Local health departments act as communities’ Chief Health Strategists by assuring that the health and wellbeing of Nebraskans are protected and improved. Local health departments do this by working in each of the Three Core Function Areas of Public Health:



Assessment: Collect and analyze information about health problems in Nebraska communities.



Policy Development: Work with partners to apply data, educate the public, and develop programs and policies—all to address and prevent illness, disease and disability.



Assurance: Promote effective coordination and use of community resources to protect the health and wellbeing of Nebraskans.

Community Health Assessment (CHA) / Community Health Improvement Plan (CHIP)

SHDHD activated five steering committees - one for each priority - made up of community partners who are leading implementation of SHDHD’s CHIP. These committees are evaluating progress on the goals and objectives and adjusting the plan as needed.

With input from key partners, we developed infographics in Spanish and English for each priority to engage our community in the action phase. The infographics explain in plain language and graphics the “why”, the “how”, and the “expected outcomes” of the CHIP. The “why” provides data that led our community to choose each priority, the “how” explains what actions we are taking to address each priority, and the “expected outcomes” explains what difference we expect to make by the actions outlined in the plan.

CHIP PRIORITIES: Access to Health Care, Mental Health, Substance Misuse, Obesity & Related Health Conditions, and Cancer

AREAS OF WORK

ACCESS TO AND LINKAGE TO CLINICAL CARE

Includes coordination of services between medical providers and providers of health-related social needs, oral health/dental services, and behavioral/mental health.



SHDHD surveyed primary care and behavioral health providers and users of behavioral health services to determine gaps in services and provider training needs. Formally developed, through MOU agreements, a Rural Behavioral Health Network (RBHN) consisting of two hospitals, regional behavioral health outpatient agency, private health clinic, and SHDHD, to address district-wide behavior health needs. The South Heartland RBHN strategic plan features coordinated and collaborative approaches.

CHRONIC DISEASE CONTROL AND PREVENTION

Includes asthma, cancer, cardiovascular disease, diabetes, obesity, tobacco control, and worksite wellness.



Established a health assessment tool for community health workers and clinic staff to use with individuals in farming or agriculture-related occupations. Two schools participating in SHDHD's Whole School, Whole Child, Whole Community project completed a school wellness policy review with suggestions for improvement submitted to their respective school boards. Navigated 33 women to breast and cervical cancer screening, with 94% receiving health coaching. Partnered with local imaging center and radiology practice to assure navigation of 12 uninsured who were ineligible for Every Woman Matters.

COMMUNICABLE DISEASE CONTROL AND PREVENTION

Includes communicable disease epidemiology (disease outbreak management/response), tuberculosis (TB), immunizations, sexually transmitted infections, and surveillance (tracking and following up on reports and provider/school reports).



Assessed immunization needs for underserved populations and provided 661 vaccines to 276 children: 76% had no insurance, 19% on Medicaid, 4% underinsured, 18% were new clients. Partnered across sectors to "flatten" the COVID-19 pandemic curve, educating about State's directed health measures (DHM) with messages of "Stay Home, Stay Healthy, Stay Connected". Coordinated with UNMC to work with long-term care and food processing facilities on implementing best practices to reduce the spread of COVID-19 among their employees and/or residents.

AREAS OF WORK

ENVIRONMENTAL HEALTH

Includes radon, lead, emergency response, hazardous substances and sites, and Complete Streets initiatives.



In collaboration with Hastings Head Start, SHDHD reconciled lead testing for fall enrollment screening. Staff also conducted eight elevated blood lead investigations and three lead risk site assessments.



SHDHD Board of Health reviewed and approved the new Emergency Response Plan that was developed collaboratively across our region.



During a tragic double drowning event, SHDHD collaborated with two area agencies to assist family, friends, and responders with trauma-related needs.

INJURY PREVENTION

Includes motor vehicle injuries, occupational injuries, senior fall prevention, substance abuse, car seat safety, binge drinking, and distracted driving.



SHDHD completed falls risk assessments during six Tai Chi classes and three Stepping On classes for 53 participants who completed the classes.



To implement the seven-week Stepping On program, SHDHD utilized a formal MOU with seven area partners including local physical therapy, ophthalmology, pharmacy and retail footwear.



SHDHD coordinated with two clinics along with area EMS to educate and collaborate on referrals to community falls prevention resources.

MATERNAL AND CHILD HEALTH

Includes Women, Infant, and Children (WIC), family planning, newborn screening, evidence-based home visitation, Early Preventative Screening, Diagnosis, and Treatment (EPSDT).



Our MCH-funded Healthy Kids Workgroup assisted organizations serving infants and young children to assess their environment and policies. Two SHDHD staff participated in the Nebraska DHHS strategic planning workgroups to develop state-wide priorities for MCH.



The Healthy Kids Workgroup addresses childhood obesity by promoting physical activity and nutrition policy/environmental changes. Ten schools, child care centers, after school programs, and in-home daycares implemented changes impacting over 725 kids.



ADDITIONAL ACTIVITIES

Additional public health activities that South Heartland District Health Department performs to assure that the health and wellbeing of Nebraskans are protected and improved.

VetSET. Through the VetSET Making Connections project, SHDHD is engaging community partners and addressing the needs of our 3,523 local veterans and their families. Through assessments, we better understand Veteran's barriers to services and other needs. SHDHD coordinates Military 101/Military Cultural Competency training to engage community partners, including those specifically serving Veterans and their families. Participant discussions following these trainings are identifying issues/concerns/barriers and generating ideas and strategies to address these concerns in our communities. Some of these same partners are working with us to facilitate and implement the strategies in our three primary focus areas to improve Veteran's health:

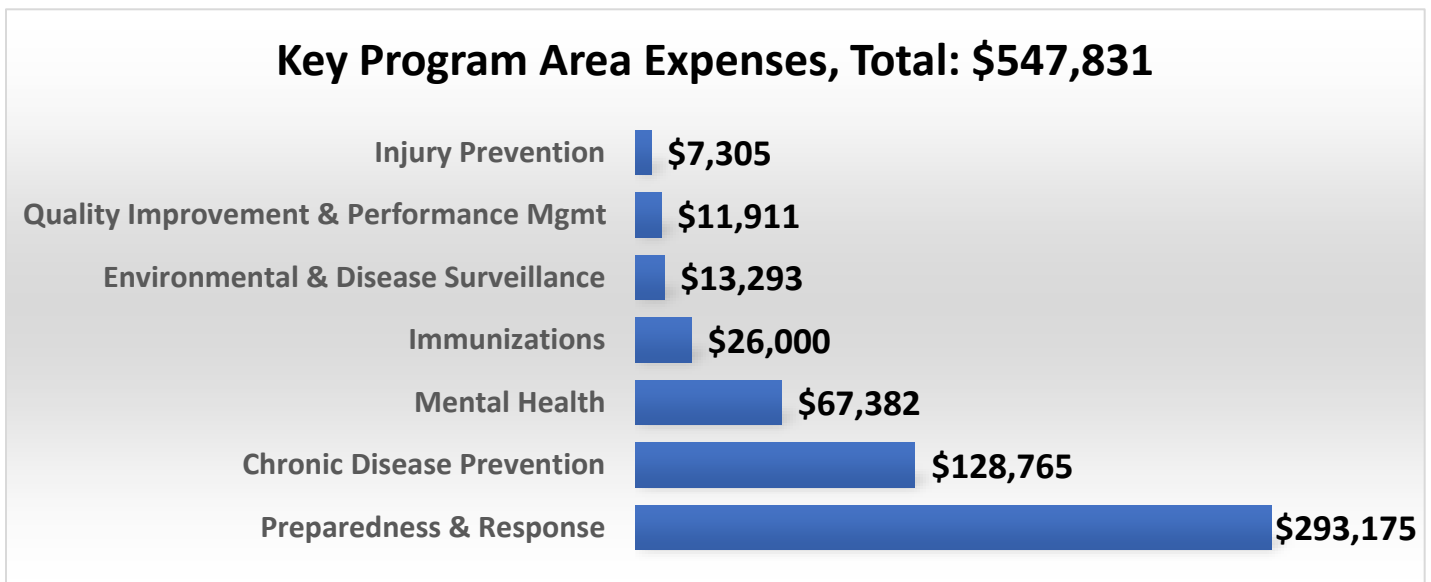
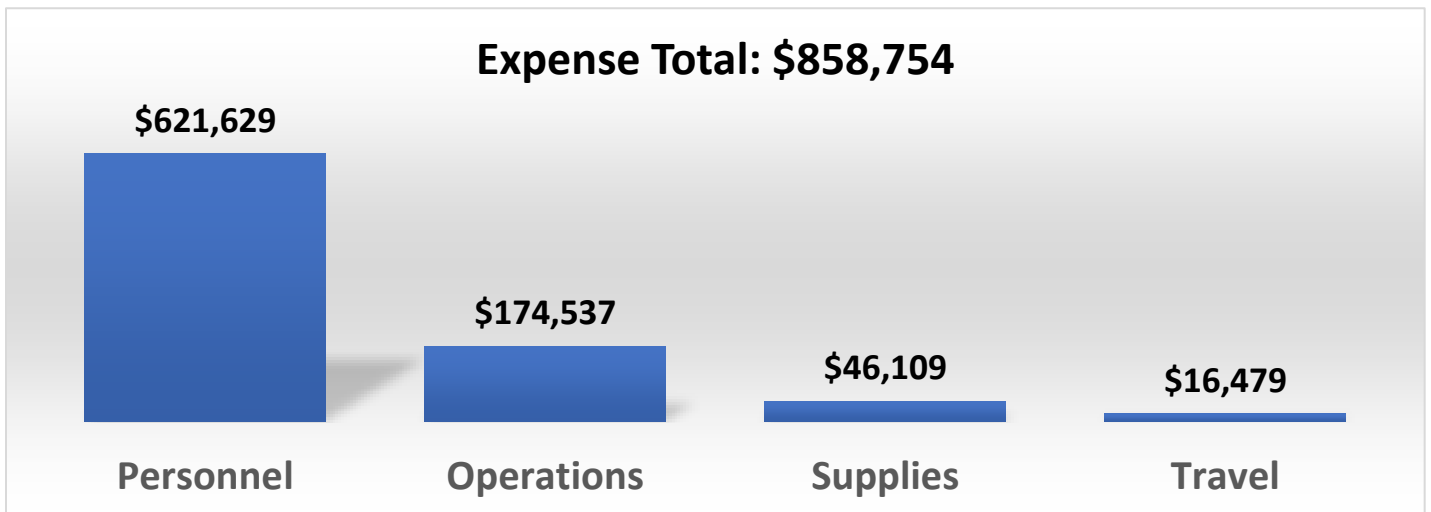
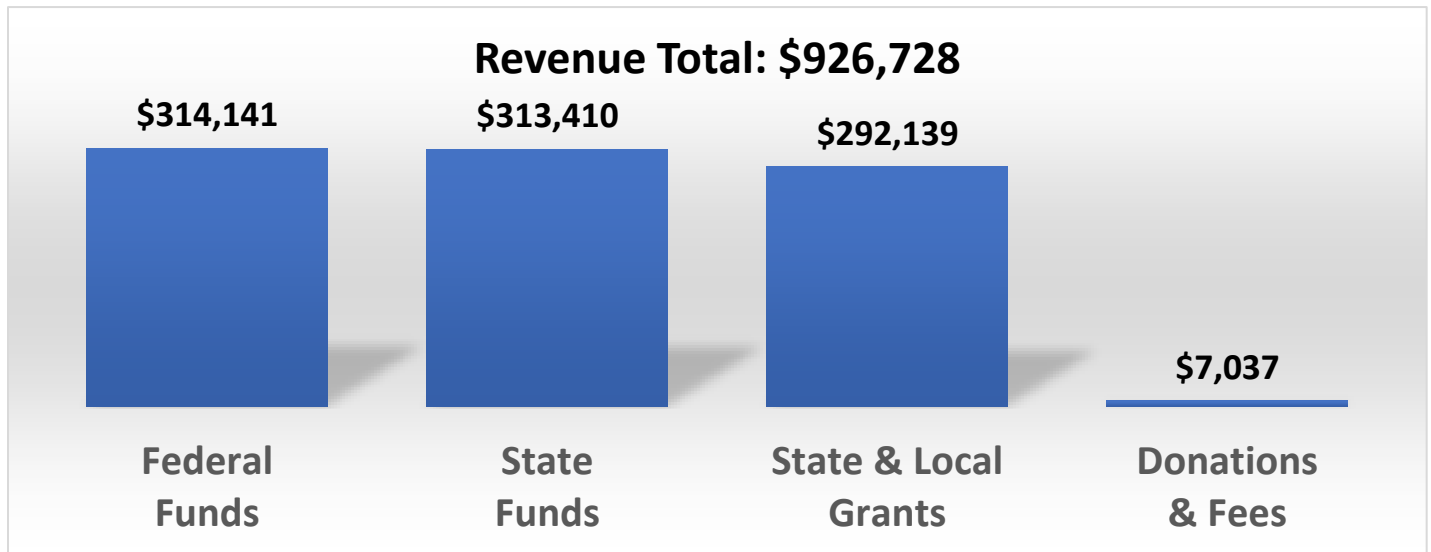
- Connecting veterans and their families to resources.
- Building awareness about the needs of Veterans and their families.
- Equipping the community with tools to address these concerns.

SHDHD is committed to working with partners to implement system changes, such as adopting and implementing Veteran-friendly protocols, and continuing to train more individuals and organizations to support our military men and women and their families.

SHDHD Accredited! In March, South Heartland District Health Department was awarded national accreditation through the Public Health Accreditation Board. Accreditation through PHAB demonstrates SHDHD's commitment to excellence in serving the 4-county health district. Board President Nanette Shackelford remarked that accreditation, "coming as it does in the midst of the department's rapidly unfolding public health response to the COVID-19 pandemic, will reassure our community, our partner organizations, our funders and our elected officials that the services we provide are as responsive as possible to the needs of our community. By continuing to improve our services and performance, we can be sure we are meeting the public health needs of those we serve."



Financial Report July 2019-June 2020

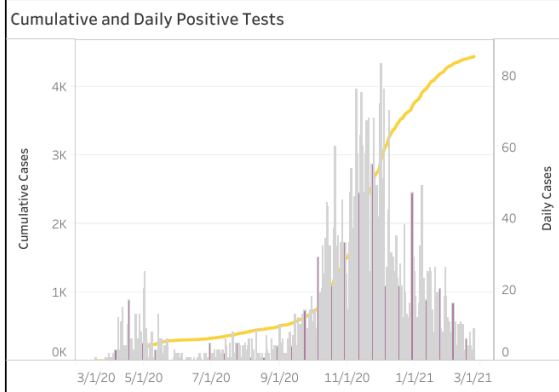


SHDHD COVID-19 DASHBOARDS: 2020 PANDEMIC SUMMARY



Main Dashboard | Hastings Data | Vaccine Data

COVID-19 Dashboard
last updated 02/23/21 9:00 pm CST



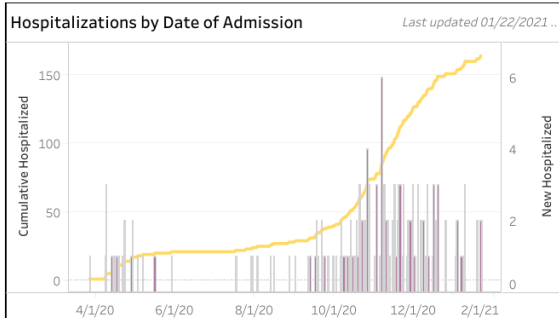
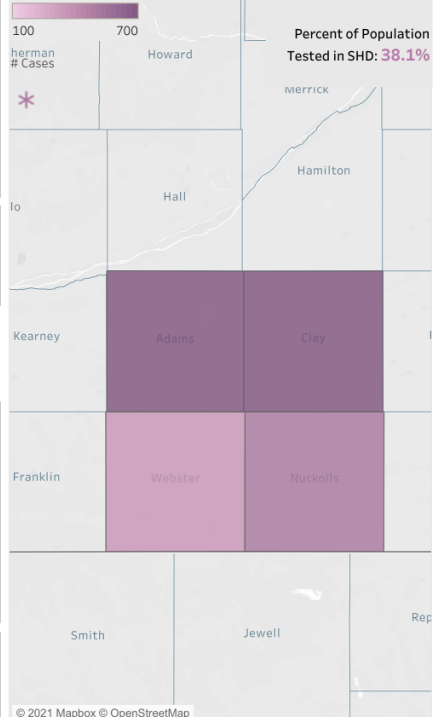
Confirmed Cases

4,448

Deaths in SHD

58 *

Deaths in SHD

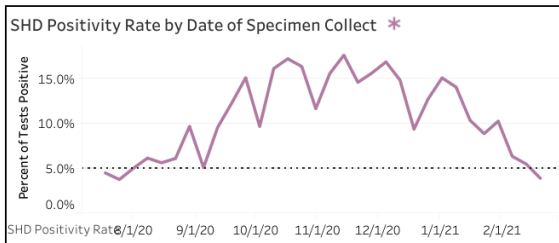


Total Hospitalizations

164

Hospital Capacity Dashboard
(Courtesy of TriCities Medical Response System)

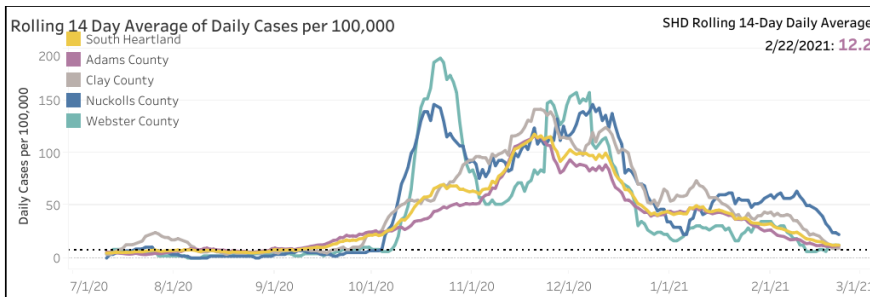
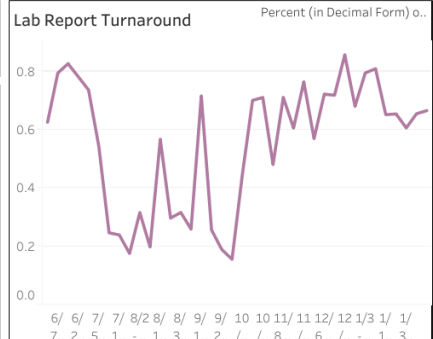
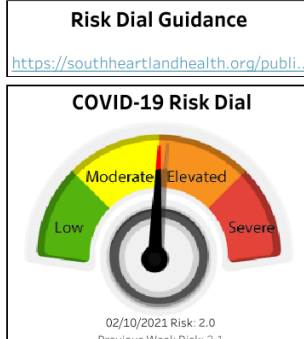
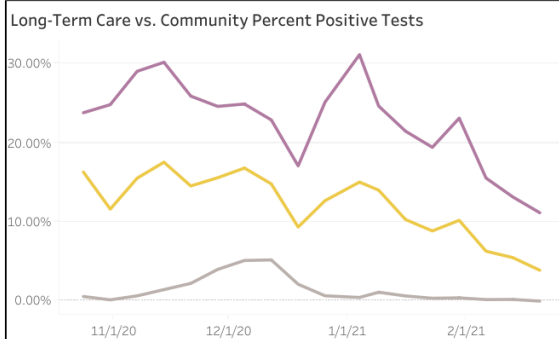
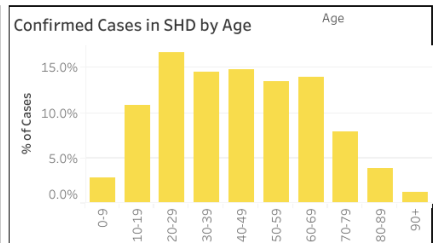
<https://public.tableau.com/profile/chris...>



Recoveries in SHD

4,220 *

Recoveries in SHD

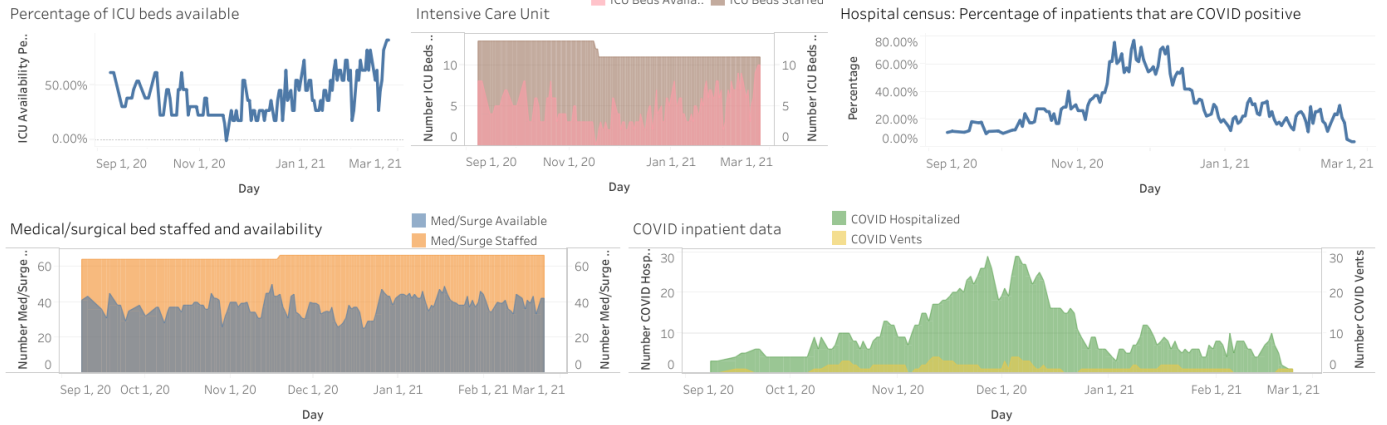


Cumulative Cases per 100,000 Population

SHD: 9,832
Adams: 9,227
Clay: 11,575
Nuckolls: 11,813
Webster: 9,808

SHDHD COVID-19 DASHBOARDS: 2020 PANDEMIC SUMMARY

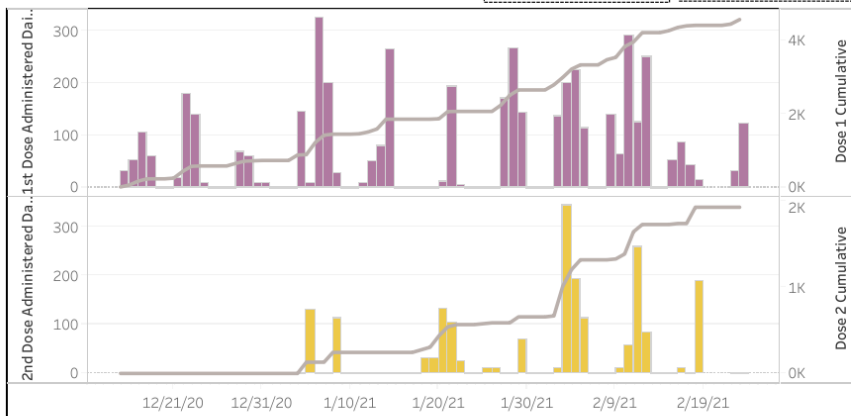
South Heartland Hospital Data updated as of February 23, 2021



[Main Dashboard](#)
[Hastings Data](#)
[Vaccine Data](#)

COVID-19 Dashboard

last updated 02/23/21 9:00 pm CST



Number of COVID-19 Vaccinations Administered (Adams, Clay, Nuckolls and Webster Counties)

6,473

*Does not include vaccines administered through the federal long term care facility vaccination program

Current Vaccine Distribution Phase:

1B

1B: People 65+ and prioritized essential workers

First Dose in Series Received:

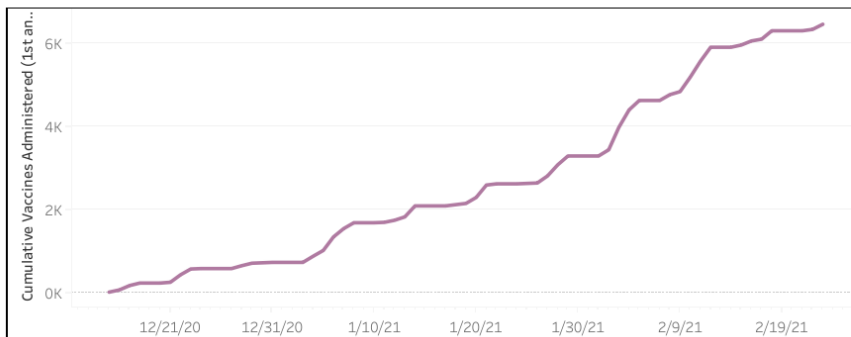
4,555

Second Dose in Series Received:

1,918

South Heartland District Health Department COVID-19 Vaccine Information:

<https://southheartlandhealth.org/public-health-data/covid-19-vaccine-information.html>



South Heartland District Health Department

Board of Health

(July 2020)

<i>Adams County</i>	Charles Neumann, Board of Commissioners Barbara Harrington Donna Fegler-Daiss
<i>Clay County</i>	Richard Shaw, Board of Supervisors Sandra Nejezchleb Nanette Shackelford
<i>Nuckolls County</i>	James Keifer, Board of Commissioners Peggy Meyer Jean Stichka
<i>Webster County</i>	T.J. Vance, Board of Commissioners Mirya Hallock Torey Kohmetscher

<i>Professional Representatives</i>	Medical:	Daniel Brailita, MD
	Dental:	Michael Kleppinger, DDS
	Veterinary:	Lindsay Waechter-Mead, DVM

<i>Officers</i>	President:	Nanette Shackelford
	Vice President:	Mirya Hallock
	Secretary/Treasurer:	Charles Neumann

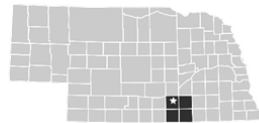


Our Vision is...
Healthy People in Healthy Communities

Mission

The South Heartland District Health Department is dedicated to preserving and improving the health of residents of Adams, Clay, Nuckolls and Webster Counties. We work with local partners to develop and implement a Community Health Improvement Plan and to provide other public health services mandated by Nebraska State Statutes.

Visit www.southheartlandhealth.org
for full Annual Report



Promoting Health
Responding To Emergencies
Cultivating School Wellness
Improving Access To Health Care
Preventing Cancer
Investigating Diseases
Reducing Obesity
Improving Mental Health
Reducing Substance Misuse
Helping Kids Get A Healthy Start
Conducting Community Assessments
Creating Walkable Communities
Protecting Our Most Vulnerable
Connecting Veterans
Preventing Diabetes
Reducing Radon Exposures
Measuring Our Performance
Preventing Falls

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PROUDLY SERVING ADAMS, CLAY,
NUCKOLLS, AND WEBSTER COUNTIES

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