Over 350 cases of COVID-19 were recorded in TRPHD between November 17 - November 23. There are currently 38 adult COVID admissions in TRPHD hospitals.

- Positivity rates for tests conducted outside long term care facilities in Franklin, Gosper, Harlan, Dawson and Phelps county ranged from 27-44% last week. Testing availability has shrunk at major hospitals and clinics in the area.

- Only 1 out of 30 ICU beds are currently available across TRPHD, over a third of ICU beds in use are occupied by COVID patients. Across TRPHD, 5 out of the 6 ventilators currently in use are for COVID patients.

- Although TRPHD has publicly announced 149 deaths due to COVID in the district, investigation teams report newly recorded COVID deaths in the district this week; deaths will be reported following in-depth investigation of the case and exit interview with family members.

- A public COVID testing site is now open in Kearney city at the Buffalo County Fairgrounds. Testing results will be available the same day and are offered Mondays & Wednesdays 9:30AM - 12:30PM. Those desirous of COVID testing are requested register at www.trphd.org for scheduling.

- As of Nov 23, 2021, 47.8% of TRPHD’s total population and almost 60% of the adult population (18+ years) has been fully vaccinated. TRPHD strongly urges all unvaccinated vaccine-eligible residents to avail of the COVID vaccination through their healthcare provider, pharmacy or TRPHD. For schedule of vaccination clinics, see www.trphd.org

- For these reasons, the risk dial is at the same level as last week and remains in the ‘pandemic’ zone. The unchanged dial reading reflects the drop in ICU availability rates locally, lower availability of COVID testing in Hospitals and persistently high test positivity rates, especially in Dawson and Phelps counties.
To conclude, over 350 new COVID cases were detected in the Two Rivers area last week, in spite of slightly reduced testing availability at hospitals this week. ICU availability is 1 out of 30, over a third of occupied beds are accounted for by COVID patients, 5 out of 6 ventilators currently in use across the district are occupied by COVID patients. 48% of the total population of TRPHD district and almost 57% of all adults are fully vaccinated. Public COVID-19 testing is now available at the Buffalo county Fairgrounds on Mondays and Wednesdays between 9:30-12:30 in the morning. Those desirous of availing services are requested to register prior to testing (www.trphd.org). Schedule for vaccination clinics can be found at https://www.trphd.org/covid-19/event-calendar.html. In the meantime, unvaccinated residents are advised to follow strict preventive measures (social distancing, correct and consistent masking) at all times, especially in light of increased transmission of the delta variant and general relaxation of infection control practices.