## Southwest Nebraska Public Health Department

## NEWS RELEASE

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## Low-Cost Lab Tests

Southwest Nebraska Public Health Department (SWNPHD) is partnering with Red Willow County Health Department in McCook to provide low-cost lab tests. These preventive lab tests can reveal a person's risk for chronic diseases like heart disease, diabetes, and some cancers. Having these labs available at affordable rates is an important part of public health efforts to lower disease rates in our area.

Southwest Nebraska Public Health Department has offered health fair laboratory services for 10 years to fill a gap in services within the nine-county health district. This gap is closing as more healthcare providers are offering discount labs in more locations.

"We have partners that can offer low-cost labs in southwest Nebraska," explained Melissa Propp, Clinic Manager at SWNPHD. "Part of our strategic plan is to work collaboratively with other entities in the health district to meet the needs of our communities. Red Willow County Health Department offers low-cost lab services, and we are fortunate to have them as a partner."

SWNPHD will refer all McCook lab draw clients to Red Willow County Health Department in McCook starting November 1, 2024. Red Willow County Health offers lab services every Thursday morning. They also hold a health fair in the spring and again in the fall. Labs offered at RWCHD include Vitamin D, Hemoglobin A1C, TSH (Thyroid Screening), PSA (Prostate Specific Antigen) and Metabolic Panel/Lipid Profile/Uric Acid/CBC. Schedule lab services by calling 308-345-1790.

"Working with Southwest Nebraska Public Health Department has been a pleasure since I have become Nurse Director at Red Willow County Health Department," explained Brandy Bird, Director at Red Willow County Health Dept. "I am excited about our joint effort to make public health services better for our community."

Southwest Nebraska Public Health Department serves Chase, Dundy, Frontier, Furnas, Hayes, Hitchcock, Keith, Perkins, and Red Willow counties. You can follow us on Facebook, YouTube, and Instagram or view the website at swhealth.ne.gov which contains many resources and additional information helpful to prevent disease, promote and protect health.