



News Release

For immediate release

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Keeping a Safe and Healthy Workforce During the COVID-19 Pandemic

Billings, MT – With Phase Two of the Governor’s reopening of Montana taking effect on June 1, 2020, more Montanans will be returning to the workplace. As such, employers are strongly encouraged to develop and implement appropriate policies to keep their employees safe.

While a **negative COVID-19 test is not a requirement for employees returning to work**, employers are encouraged to be diligent about monitoring their workforce for symptoms. All employers are encouraged to:

- Continue staff teleworking where possible.
- Consider alternative schedules, staggering shifts.
- Develop and conduct health screenings of all employees at the beginning of each shift
- Monitor employees for signs/symptoms of COVID-19 infection.
- Do not allow ill employees to come to work; have them contact their healthcare provider if they have a fever, cough or other symptoms of COVID-19.
- Close common areas where employees congregate if physical distancing cannot be maintained.
- Consider providing employees with a cloth facemask if they are working in close contact with others for a prolonged time.
- Clean and disinfect frequently touched surfaces and high-traffic areas often.
- Minimize non-essential staff travel.

Don’t let your COVID-19 guard down. Basic precautions against spreading the novel coronavirus are more important than ever:

- Wash your hands frequently with soap and water for at least 20 seconds or use a nickel-sized drop of hand sanitizer containing at least 60% alcohol.
- Cover cough and sneezes and avoid touching your face.
- Wear a cloth facemask or other face covering when out in public.
- Keep your distance of at least six feet from others not in your household when standing in line or inside a business.
- Stay home if you are sick or at high risk for severe COVID-19 illness.

“Montana’s phased reopening is a time that requires personal responsibility from each of us, employers and employees,” said John Felton, Yellowstone County Health Officer and President and CEO of RiverStone Health. “Collectively, we can keep our COVID-19 infection

rate low and support the many local businesses that are responsibly responding to the pandemic.”

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