



## Media Information:

**For immediate release:**

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### **Yellowstone County records COVID-19 death in 2021**

**Billings, MT** – In 2020, RiverStone Health, Yellowstone County’s public health department, reported the deaths of 165 Yellowstone County residents from COVID-19 related illness. Today, RiverStone Health reports the first Yellowstone County resident death in 2021.

On January 3, a man in his 70s died at a Billings hospital.

“I offer my condolences to the family and friends of this community member,” said John Felton, Yellowstone County public health officer and RiverStone Health CEO. “Our local hospitals and public health staff are seeing fewer new cases of COVID-19 than they did in November, but the pandemic continues to take a tragic toll in our community. Until everyone has access to safe, effective vaccines, we must each do our part to protect ourselves and our loved ones by slowing the spread of this contagious virus.”

- Wear a mask in public and whenever you are with a person who doesn’t live with you.
- Keep your distance of at least 6 feet from others who don’t live with you.
- Wash your hands thoroughly and frequently.
- Stay home if you are ill.

At least 14,138 Yellowstone County residents have been infected with COVID-19 to date, according to RiverStone Health records.

More information on the pandemic, including updated Yellowstone County statistics, is online at [covid.riverstonehealth.org](https://covid.riverstonehealth.org).

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