# Media Information:

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### Yellowstone County records 169ᵗʰ COVID-19 death

**Billings, MT** – RiverStone Health, Yellowstone County's public health department, reports the death of another Yellowstone County resident from COVID-19 related illness.

On January 5, a woman in her 70s died at a Billings hospital.

So far, 169 Yellowstone County people have died from COVID-19 illness, including four who died in January, according to RiverStone Health records.

 "Our hearts go out to console the family and friends of this Yellowstone County resident," said John Felton, Yellowstone County public health officer and RiverStone Health CEO.

Each COVID-19 death in our community is a tragic reminder that the pandemic remains a threat. Yellowstone County is still seeing new cases of COVID-19 every day. Our hospitals continue to care for dozens of COVID-19 patients, including critically ill patients who cannot breathe on their own.

The COVID-19 vaccine supplies that have arrived in Yellowstone County aren't sufficient to vaccinate everyone. In Yellowstone County, the limited supplies are now being used to vaccinate the 1A priority group: healthcare workers, first responders and residents of nursing homes and assisted living facilities.

We don't yet know when more vaccine will arrive in Yellowstone County to begin vaccinating people in the 1B priority group, including people age 70 and older and younger adults with certain serious health conditions, Native Americans and other people of color who are at higher risk of severe COVID-19 illness.

At least 14,403 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.

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