



Media Information:

For immediate release:

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Yellowstone County records 174th COVID-19 death

Billings, MT – COVID-19 related illness has caused the death of yet another Yellowstone County resident, according to RiverStone Health, Yellowstone County’s public health department.

On January 14, a woman in her 90s died at a Billings hospital.

“I offer my condolences to the loved ones of the woman who died Thursday,” said John Felton, RiverStone Health CEO and Yellowstone County health officer. “Too many families are grieving losses caused by the pandemic.”

Yellowstone County has lost 174 residents to the pandemic; nine of whom died in the first 14 days of January.

At least 14,729 Yellowstone County residents have tested positive for the virus that causes COVID-19, according to RiverStone Health records. Among those infected, 954 Yellowstone County residents have been hospitalized.

Fifty-nine COVID-19 patients were in Billings Clinic and St. Vincent Healthcare as of Friday, including 16 patients under intensive care and 12 who were intubated.

The vaccines that will finally end the epidemic remain in short supply locally. RiverStone Health and Billings hospitals will provide vaccines as quickly as possible, depending on supplies available through the state of Montana and the federal government. We will offer vaccinations to Montanans based on priority groups established by the state of Montana.

As of Friday, there are not sufficient supplies in Yellowstone County to offer vaccination to the 1B priority group that includes people over age 70, younger people with health conditions that put them at high risk for serious illness, and Native Americans and other people of color who are at high risk from COVID-19.

RiverStone Health will notify the community as quickly as possible of vaccination availability after supplies arrive.

While awaiting vaccination, it is important for everyone to keep taking precautions against spreading the virus: Keep your distance, wear masks when around people who don't live with you, wash your hands thoroughly, and stay home if you are sick.

COVID-19 information is updated regularly online at covid.riverstonehealth.org.

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