Media Information:

For immediate release:
December 3, 2021

November Yellowstone County COVID-19 deaths increase by three

Billings, MT – A Yellowstone County Clerk and Recorder's Office review of death certificates has increased the total number of Yellowstone County residents dying of COVID-19 related illness by three. There are now at least 47 people that died during the month of November 2021, bring the total number of Yellowstone County residents to die of COVID-19 related illness to 458.

The deceased, who all died in residences earlier this month, are:
- A man in his 70s who was fully vaccinated, but had underlying health conditions, died on Nov. 21.
- A woman in her 80s who was not vaccinated, but had underlying health conditions, died on Nov. 23.
- A woman in her 70s who was not vaccinated, but had underlying health conditions, died on Nov. 25.

On Friday, Billings hospitals had 64 COVID-19 inpatients, including 55 who weren't vaccinated. Among the hospitalized COVID-19 patients, 27 were in ICU and 20 were on ventilators.

Vaccination continues to be the safest, most effective way to reduce the risk of severe COVID-19 illness and death. The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention recommends that everyone ages 18 and older get a COVID-19 booster shot 6 months after their initial Pfizer or Moderna series or 2 months after their initial Johnson & Johnson vaccine.

December vaccination clinics

RiverStone Health will host the following vaccination clinics in the month of December.
- December 4, 9 a.m. – noon in Cedar Hall at MetraPark. Family and pediatric clinic.
- December 9, 11 a.m. – 1 p.m. at RiverStone Health, 123 S. 27th in the four-story building.
- December 11, 9 a.m. – noon in Cedar Hall at MetraPark. Family and pediatric clinic.
- December 30, 11 a.m. – 1 p.m. at RiverStone Health, 123 S. 27th, in the four-story building.

Masks are required at all vaccination clinics. Children under 18 must have signed parental consent for vaccination. All clinics offer the three U.S. approved COVID-19 vaccines.

Vaccine for people age 5 and older are available at local pharmacies, clinics and hospitals.

Drive-through testing closed
As a result of decreased demand, the free, drive-through community testing site in the St. Vincent Healthcare parking lot M is now closed. COVID-19 testing options can be found at covid.riverstonehealth.org by looking under "I need to be tested for COVID-19".

###