



Media Information:

For immediate release:

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COVID-19 illness claims two more Yellowstone County lives

Billings, MT – Two more Yellowstone County residents have died from COVID-19 related illness. Both were unvaccinated and had underlying health conditions that put them at higher risk for severe COVID-19 illness.

The latest victims were:

- A man in his 70s who passed away at a Billings hospital on Dec. 31.
- A woman in her 70s who passed away at a Billings hospital on Jan. 1.

Including the deaths reported today, 480 Yellowstone County residents have lost their lives to the pandemic virus. Statewide, 2,908 Montanans have succumbed, according to the Montana Department of Public Health and Human Services.

On Monday, Billings hospitals had 42 COVID-19 inpatients, including 34 who weren't vaccinated and eight who were vaccinated. Among the hospitalized COVID-19 patients, 19 were in ICU and 13 were on ventilators.

COVID-19 vaccinations

Vaccination remains the safest, most effective way to reduce risk of COVID-19 illness, hospitalization and death. COVID-19 vaccines is available at local medical clinics and pharmacies. RiverStone Health will offer this free, walk-in community COVID-19 vaccination clinics for people age five and older this month:

- 11 a.m. to 1 p.m. on Jan. 20 at RiverStone Health, 123 S. 27th St., in the four-story building.

Free COVID-19 vaccinations also can be scheduled by appointment by calling the RiverStone Health Immunization Clinic at 406.247.338.

All three COVID-19 vaccines approved for use in the United States are available at RiverStone Health clinics. People can receive first, second and booster doses as recommended by the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention. People who previously had one or two doses should bring their vaccination

card. Parents must sign consent forms for children under 18. Masks are required at the vaccination clinic.

At-home COVID-19 test kits

RiverStone Health has postponed previously scheduled giveaways of free at-home COVID-19 test kits. All test kits on hand were given away quickly to the public on Monday morning. More kits have been ordered from the Montana Department of Public Health and Human Services, but it's uncertain when a new supply will arrive. Information on future at-home test kit giveaways will be provided through local media in news releases, online at covid.riverstonehealth.org and RiverStone Health Facebook posts.

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