



## Media Information:

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### **RiverStone Health complies with federal staff vaccination rule**

**Billings, MT** – Today, February 14, is the first deadline set by the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services for healthcare facilities in Montana and most other states to have all their employees vaccinated against COVID-19.

The CMS rule applies to certain, but not all, healthcare organizations that receive federal Medicare or Medicaid funds. Failure to comply could result in the loss of Medicare, Medicaid and other federal funding.

RiverStone Health is 100% compliant with this CMS rule. We have 434 staff members and 49 (11%) received an exemption for medical or religious reasons. No employees have been suspended or have lost their position.

“The staff at RiverStone Health understands the tremendous importance of protecting our patients and our community from COVID-19 infection,” said John Felton, Yellowstone County health officer and president and CEO of RiverStone Health. “RiverStone Health did not establish this requirement, but we are complying with it. Medicare and Medicaid are major funding sources for our clinics, home healthcare, hospice and family medicine residency. We could not continue to serve our patients and Yellowstone County without this funding.”

“RiverStone Health employees take their mission to improve life, health and safety seriously,” Felton said. “We continue to encourage COVID-19 vaccination and offer free vaccinations to all community members age five and older as recommended by the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention.”

For more information on COVID-19 risk, please visit [covid.riverstonehealth.org](https://covid.riverstonehealth.org).

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