



Media Information:

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RiverStone Health moving to text messages for COVID-19 case investigations

Billings, MT – Beginning Thursday, March 10, RiverStone Health will use text messages to contact Yellowstone County residents who test positive for COVID-19.

The text messages will originate from the phone number 406.213.1763 and contain a link to a HIPAA-compliant online form that will only take a few minutes to fill out. It will ask for basic personal information, details about COVID-19 test dates, symptoms, and if there are any close contacts. The form will also provide quarantine and isolation instructions and release dates for those testing positive and their close contacts.

Only people who have tested positive for COVID-19 should fill out the form. The information provided is secure and will only be used for case investigation and epidemiological purposes.

Those without a cell phone or who prefer to complete the information over the phone can contact a RiverStone Health case investigator at 406.651.6415. If the online form is not completed, a member of the RiverStone Health COVID-19 team may reach out by phone.

The shift to text messages comes after the successful rollout of similar systems in a number of other Montana counties, including Flathead County and Gallatin County.

For the week ending Saturday, March 5, the Billings hospitals together had an average of 21 COVID-19 inpatients daily. On Tuesday, March 8, Montana's Department of Health & Human Services [showed](#) 207 active cases of COVID-19 in Yellowstone County, the highest number of any county in Montana.

For more information about COVID-19, go to covid.riverstonehealth.org.

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