



## Administrator's Report February 22, 2022

### General Hospital District Information Update

#### COVID -19 State and Local Update:

- GCHD distributed 450 At-Home Covid-19 test kits to Granite County businesses and community members. Another shipment was ordered and received and they are available through our Philipsburg and Drummond clinics.
- As part of the Biden Administration's ongoing efforts to expand Americans' access to free testing, people in either original Medicare or Medicare Advantage will be able to get over-the-counter COVID-19 tests at no cost starting in early spring. Under the new initiative, Medicare beneficiaries will be able to access up to eight over the counter COVID-19 tests per month for free. Tests will be available through eligible pharmacies and other participating entities. This policy will apply to COVID-19 over-the-counter tests approved or authorized by the U.S. Food and Drug Administration (FDA).
- Most private insurance companies, including our Pacific Source plan is also offering to cover up to eight, FDA approved, COVID-19 over the counter tests per month at participating pharmacies.

#### Testing:

**Vaccines:** On Friday February 11, 2022 the FDA announced they have postponed the advisory committee meeting to discuss the request for authorization of the Pfizer-BioNTech COVID-19 vaccine for children ages 6 months through 4 years to allow more time to evaluate additional data, including the ongoing evaluation of a third dose.

#### Vaccine Mandates:

- Recently Governor Gianforte sent a letter of appreciation to all healthcare workers for their commitment and dedication to caring for those in need during this very challenging time and encouraged any unvaccinated staff to submit a request for exemption and provided a template to do so, that meets the CMS requirement. In his messaging he acknowledged the longstanding critical shortage of healthcare professionals and how Montana simply cannot afford to lose these dedicated staff members.
- GCHD has achieved compliance with the vaccine mandate either through vaccination or exemption.

#### OMICRON:

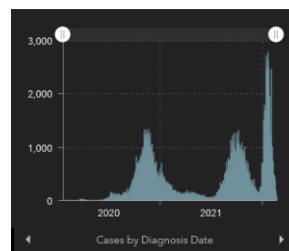
- Omicron cases are now diminishing and the BA.2 subvariant of Omicron is being monitored to determine its transmissibility and severity.

As of this morning, Granite County has **7** active case and a total of 7 deaths since the start of the pandemic.

There were **894** new confirmed cases in Montana yesterday.

According to the Montana Response map:

- 261,722 Total cases from Montana
- 3,690 Active cases in Montana (Jan=114,602)
- 197 Active Hospitalizations (Jan=292)
- 3,105 Deaths (Jan=2,985)



Philipsburg  
Drummond

PO Box 729, Philipsburg, MT 59858  
PO Box 223, Drummond, MT 59832

Tel: 406.859.3271

Fax: 406.859.3011



According to the Montana Response map:

Granite County is at 39% and Montana is at 54% of its eligible population fully vaccinated. These percentages are unchanged since last month.

#### **Activities /Life Enrichment:**

- The beginning of January found us “Un-Decorating”. Three weeks later Christmas was put away. Patients have been making Paper Snow Flakes. The patterns are incredible. They look intricate, like lace, yet they found it so easy to make.
- Patients have been playing lots of Kings Corner and Yahtzee. They got a new board game called Parcheesi. This is almost like the game Sorry. They are also watching lots of movies. January was a relaxing month as they unwind from the holidays.
- Beginning in February, we will be adding other events to our days. They are going to start painting on canvas and they will be doing Yarn crafts as well.

Business Department/ Revenue Cycle Team: No Report

Central Supply: No Report

Clinics: No Report

Dietary: No Report

Grants: No Report

Emergency Preparedness: No Report

Environmental Services: No Report

#### **Human Resources:**

- The MT Office of Rural Health in collaboration with multiple state partners, including MHA, is applying for a Rural Public Health Workforce Grant. The purpose of this program is to expand public health capacity by supporting health care job development, training, and placement in rural and tribal communities. This program addresses the ongoing critical need in health care facilities for trained public health professionals serving rural communities. This is done through the establishment of networks to develop formal training/certification programs to help professionals in the following workforce training tracks: Community Health Support, Health IT and/or Telehealth Technical Support, Community Para-Medicine, and Case Management Staff and/or Respiratory Therapist.
- Our open positions include; 1 Director of Nursing, 2 Night Shift Charge Nurses, 4 CNAs, per diem Housekeeping and Maintenance and a full time cook.
- As we all know our recruitment and retention efforts are challenged by high housing costs, limited available personnel and the appeal of high paying opportunities offered by travel companies. In our continual effort to acquire our own permanent full time staff, we have used outside sources, our website and social media platforms to target specific audiences and expand our reach.  
With the ongoing national workforce shortage in all areas and the increasing number of healthcare professionals that have left the industry altogether, it has become clear; if we are to attract and retain quality personnel we must remain competitive in

Philipsburg  
Drummond

PO Box 729, Philipsburg, MT 59858  
PO Box 223, Drummond, MT 59832

Tel: 406.859.3271

Fax: 406.859.3011

our wages and benefits and those are rising across the board. I am evaluating our current salaries offered for our open positions and will be making adjustments accordingly. I ask that the Board begin re-considering and re-evaluating the feasibility of offering spouse and family health insurance coverage when we review our coverage options for 2022.

- Our staff have all gotten together to buy gifts and treats in celebration of each staff members birthdays as they arise. This has been a team building experience, is improving morale and creating a more cohesive and positive team.
- Governor Greg Gianforte last week, launched [CareInMontana.com](http://CareInMontana.com), a website inviting qualified health care providers to move to Montana as part of the state’s innovative health care workforce recruitment program, CARE (Claim Allowance for Relocation Expenses) in Montana. “For too long, Montana has struggled to attract and retain health care providers, and the pandemic has only made this longstanding problem worse,” Gov. Gianforte said. “That’s why, with the CARE in Montana program, we’re inviting qualified doctors, nurses, and other health care professionals to move to Montana, serve in our communities, help reduce the burden on existing workers, and ensure Montanans have access to high-quality care.” [CareInMontana.com](http://CareInMontana.com) provides information to qualified health care providers across the country on how to participate in the CARE in Montana program, including eligible health care jobs and how the program works. The website also answers frequently asked questions and provides participating employers with resources to help them attract well-qualified workers. Under CARE in Montana, participating employers can offer new employees reimbursement of up to \$12,500 for moving expenses, plus an additional 35% to offset taxes associated with the reimbursement amount. An employee is eligible for reimbursement if they accept an offer of employment for a qualifying health care job, move to Montana, and work in the qualifying job for at least 12 consecutive months. Full program details may be found at [CareInMontana.com](http://CareInMontana.com)

IT: No Report

Laboratory: No Report

Maintenance / Transportation: No Report

Marketing: No Report

**Medical Staff:**

- New Credentials: Jessica Martin, FNP and Lynn Graham, PA-C
- Temporary Privileges: None
- Re-credentialed Providers: Dr. William Reiter, MD  
Edward Amberg, PA-C  
David Neill, PA-C  
Dr. Justin Lamb, DO teleradiology
- Resignations: None

**Nursing:**

- **Utilization Review** – attached
- **January Patient Census**

ER Visits	= 28	Observation Days	= 3
Intermediate Swing Bed (LTC)	= 21	Outpatient Nurse Visit	= 8
Swing Bed billable days	= 22 (2)	Deaths	= 2
Acute billable days	= 5 (3)		
Adult Day Care Visits	= 0		

**Physical Therapy:**

January had a total:	87 Visits		
Outpatient:	81	Swing Bed:	6
Acute Inpatient:	0	LTC:	0

**Radiology:**

- We completed 8 CT Scans in January.
- Radiology coverage is very limited at this time with one tech on vacation until March 2<sup>nd</sup>, and the Director who recently resigned, however is still providing some coverage during this time. Recruitment is in process. We will need to send ER patients out for xrays and scans when there is no coverage.
- The X Ray Equipment has been installed, but we are still waiting on last minute construction items to be completed, which includes finish work in the main hallway, trim and flooring patches in the X-ray room.

Respectfully submitted,  
Maria Stoppler CEO/DON