



## **Administrator's Report** **December 28, 2021**

### **General Hospital District Information Update:**

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

#### **COVID Vaccinations for Children:**

- The CDC expanded recommendations for the Pfizer-BioNTech COVID-19 booster shots to now include all individuals ages 16 years and older at least 6 months after completing their primary COVID-19 vaccination series.

**Vaccine Mandates:** Sixth Circuit Reinstates OSHA's Vaccine Mandate for employers with 100 or more employees. This terminated the nationwide injunction of the Emergency Temporary Standard (ETS) and it now appears this may be headed to the Supreme Court.

#### **OMICRON- New Variant Emerges:**

- Omicron is now the dominant variant and has been reported in all 50 states.
- CDC has been working with state and local public health officials to monitor the spread of Omicron in the United States and has identified a rapid increase in infections consistent with what has been observed in other countries. Multiple large clusters of Omicron variant cases have demonstrated this rapid spread of the virus.
- The clinical severity profile of Omicron infection will strongly influence its impact on U.S. hospitalizations and deaths. Early data suggest Omicron infection might be less severe than infection with prior variants (3,4); however, reliable data on clinical severity remain limited (5). Even if the proportion of infections associated with severe outcomes is lower than with previous variants, a rapid, large increase in the number of infections could still result in many people with severe outcomes requiring medical care and hospitalization in a short period.
- Reinfection is higher with Omicron compared with Beta and Delta variant due to its improved ability for transmission and ability to evade natural or vaccine related immunity.

#### **CDC Recommendations:**

- Follow IP prevention strategies such wearing a mask, social distancing, washing hands frequently and proper ventilation.
- CDC continues to recommend wearing a mask in public indoor settings in areas of substantial or high community transmission, regardless of vaccination status.
- CDC recommends that everyone 5 years and older protect themselves from COVID-19 by getting fully vaccinated.

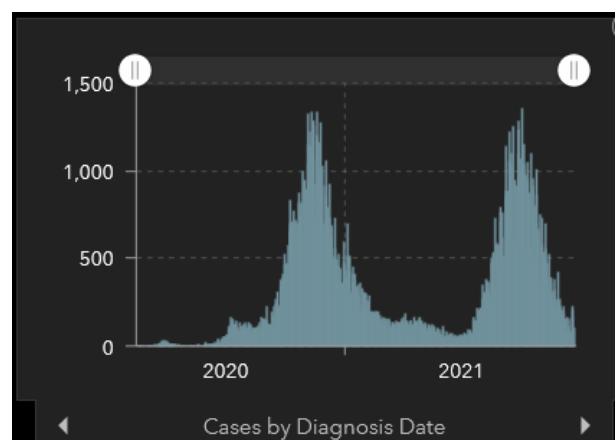
- CDC recommends that everyone ages 18 years and older should get a booster shot at least two months after their initial J&J/Janssen vaccine or six months after completing their primary COVID-19 vaccination series of Pfizer-BioNTech or Moderna.
- In a media statement released yesterday, the CDC recommended:
  - Given what we currently know about COVID-19 and the Omicron variant, CDC is shortening the recommended time for isolation from 10 days for people with COVID-19 to 5 days, if asymptomatic, followed by 5 days of wearing a mask when around others. The change is motivated by science demonstrating that the majority of SARS-CoV-2 transmission occurs early in the course of illness, generally in the 1-2 days prior to onset of symptoms and the 2-3 days after. Therefore, people who test positive should isolate for 5 days and, if asymptomatic at that time, they may leave isolation if they can continue to mask for 5 days to minimize the risk of infecting others.
  - Additionally, CDC is updating the recommended quarantine period for those exposed to COVID-19. For people who are unvaccinated or are more than six months out from their second mRNA dose (or more than 2 months after the J&J vaccine) and not yet boosted, CDC now recommends quarantine for 5 days followed by strict mask use for an additional 5 days. Alternatively, if a 5-day quarantine is not feasible, it is imperative that an exposed person wear a well-fitting mask at all times when around others for 10 days after exposure. Individuals who have received their booster shot do not need to quarantine following an exposure, but should wear a mask for 10 days after the exposure. For all those exposed, best practice would also include a test for SARS-CoV-2 at day 5 after exposure. If symptoms occur, individuals should immediately quarantine until a negative test confirms symptoms are not attributable to COVID-19.

**Treatments:** On December 22, the Food and Drug Administration authorized the first oral antiviral treatment for COVID-19, Pfizer's Paxlovid drug. Emergency use authorization was granted for the treatment of mild-to-moderate coronavirus disease in adults and children 12 years of age or older weighing at least 40 kilograms or about 88 pounds. It applies only to those who meet those qualifications, have tested positive and "who are at high risk for progression to severe COVID-19, including hospitalization or death," the FDA said.

As of today, Granite County has **1** active case and a total of 6 deaths since the start of the pandemic. There were **382** new confirmed cases in Montana yesterday.

According to the Montana Response map:

- 196,044 Total cases from Montana
- 1,775 Active cases in Montana
- 112 Active Hospitalizations
- 2,899 Deaths



According to the Montana Response map:

Granite County has **38%** of its eligible population fully immunized.

**53%** of Montanans are fully vaccinated. These percentages have increased by 1% and 2% respectively, from last month.

**Activities /Life Enrichment:**

- Each month the department has a Patient Council meeting that they call Enrichment Group Meeting, and there was a request for a pre-Thanksgiving Day Party serving Mexican & Deviled Eggs. They were able to get mini tacos that patients said, were almost too cute to eat and as requested, there were homemade deviled eggs. Then on Thanksgiving Day there was a traditional dinner made that everyone enjoyed.
- The monthly Birthday Party was on the 15<sup>th</sup>. This was traditional with cake and ice cream.
- They have been watching classic movies on Thursday afternoons. They use the theater style popcorn machine from the H&R to enjoy fresh hot popcorn.
- They also made a wreath for the Foundation's Festival of Trees this year. The crafters spent a great deal of time on this project and were quite proud of their end result.

**Business Department/ Revenue Cycle Team:**

- As reported last month, the Department of Health and Human Services (HHS) distributed American Rescue Plan (ARP) Act relief funds in November. This month they released additional Phase 4 Cares Act funds.
- Effective Jan. 1, 2022, health care facilities and providers will need to adhere to several new policies required by the No Surprises Act provision. The No Surprises Act intends to protect patients from certain surprise medical bills and remove consumers from payment disputes between a provider and a health plan. Specifically, facilities and providers will not be permitted to balance bill patients in certain out-of-network scenarios unless certain conditions are met, they must provide uninsured and self-pay patients with good faith estimates for most scheduled services (or upon request), and they must provide patients with disclosures of their new rights under this provision.

Central Supply: No Report

Clinics: No Report

Dietary: No Report

Grants: No Report

Emergency Preparedness: No Report

Environmental Services: No Report

**Human Resources:** Our open positions include; Director of Nursing, Night Shift Charge Nurse, CNAs, per diem Housekeeping and Maintenance and a full time cook.

IT: No Report

Laboratory: No Report

Maintenance / Transportation: No Report

Marketing: No Report

**Medical Staff:**

- New Credentials: None
- Temporary Privileges: Jessica Martin, FNP and Lynn Graham, PA-C
- Re-credentialed Providers: None
- Resignations: None

**Nursing:**

- **Utilization Review** – see attached report, per regulation these will continue to be included monthly.
- **November Patient Census**

ER Visits	= 29
Intermediate Swing Bed (LTC)	= 22 (4 Admits)
Swing Bed billable days	= 38 (3)
Acute billable days	= 8 (5)
Observation Days	= 1
Outpatient Nurse Visit	= 0
Adult Day Care Visits	= 0
	Deaths = 0

**Physical Therapy:**

November had a total: 121 Visits

Outpatient:	104	Swing Bed:	13
Acute Inpatient:	2	LTC:	2

**Radiology:**

- We completed 9 CT Scans in November.
- Tentative X Ray Equipment install is January 10, 2022

Respectfully submitted,  
Maria Stoppler CEO/DON