



March 25, 2020

Bozeman Health & COVID-19: Working With and For Our Community

With just a few days having passed since we shared our most recent update, much has changed and Bozeman Health continues to take important steps forward in response to the COVID-19 pandemic. With confirmed numbers of COVID-19-positive patients increasing, our key requests of our community remain the same: stay home if you can, practice deliberate social distancing when you cannot, remain patient with the state of still-limited testing capabilities in Montana, and to quote Gallatin City-County Health Officer, Matt Kelly, “be kind.”

As of this afternoon, Wednesday, March 25th, 24 individuals had been confirmed as positive for COVID-19 in Gallatin County with state-wide updates coming at 8 a.m. and 4:30 p.m. each day. The [Gallatin City-County Health Department](#) announced Sunday that there is evidence of community transmission in our county. Community transmission means the spread of an illness for which the source of infection is unknown or cannot be directly traced back to a known exposure.

Keeping Our Community Safe

Bozeman Health continues to implement important public health measures to keep our staff, patients, visitors and community safe.

Consolidating Entrances at Deaconess Hospital

Only essential entrances at all Bozeman Health care sites are open to staff, patients, visitors, and required vendors to allow for screening and visitor restriction management. The open entrances at Deaconess Hospital are:

- Emergency Department – **OPEN** 24 hours
- Entrance 4 (VIRAL TRIAGE CLINIC ONLY) – **OPEN** 8 a.m. to 5 p.m.
- Entrance 5 – **OPEN** 5:45 a.m. to 6 p.m.
- Entrance 7 – **OPEN** 4:45 a.m. to 5 p.m.

Curbside Pharmacy Pick up in Bozeman & Big Sky

Highland Park Pharmacy at Deaconess Hospital is now offering curbside pick-up and mail-order prescriptions. Big Sky Medical Center Pharmacy is offering curbside pick-up. Individuals with a new or refill prescription can call Highland Park Pharmacy (at 406-414-1030) or Big Sky Medical Center Pharmacy (at 406-995-6500) to request either option. Any community member wishing to transfer a prescription to Highland Park Pharmacy or Big Sky Pharmacy may do so by calling the pharmacies directly.

COVID-19 Testing (Viral Triage Clinic & Drive-Up Sites)

To improve testing, patient navigation, provider and community safety, and conserve personal protective equipment (PPE), Bozeman Health has established a Viral Triage Clinic (VTC) and four Drive-Up COVID-19 Test Sites. The Viral Triage Clinic at Deaconess Hospital is the location where individuals with respiratory and/or viral symptoms can be evaluated and treated. Individuals will be seen at the VTC if they **are symptomatic** and arrive at Deaconess Hospital, are directed to the VTC by their provider, or arrive at the VTC on their own. The VTC is located at **Deaconess Hospital Entrance 4** (open from 8 a.m. to 4 p.m., seven days a week).

Patients **with an existing order** from a provider have the option to visit Drive-Up COVID-19 Test Sites at **Belgrade Clinic + UrgentCare**, Bozeman Health **Outpatient Services at N. 19th**, Bozeman Health **Deaconess Hospital parking lot G**, and **Big Sky Medical Center's** emergency department ambulance bay (*BSMC hours may differ from those below*).

Drive-up COVID-19 Test Sites are open Monday through Friday from 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. and the test site at Belgrade Clinic is also open Saturday from 9 a.m. to 1 p.m. Drive-up Test Sites will perform nasal swab testing for COVID-19 for individuals **with an existing order** from a provider. b2 UrgentCare Main Street and b2Virtual Care remain available for any patient who needs a medical evaluation.

“Be Bold”: Generosity & Preparedness at Big Sky Medical Center

At a special meeting this past Friday, the Big Sky community came together to demonstrate extraordinary leadership and support for Big Sky Medical Center. The Big Sky Resort Tax Board and a consortium of the Big Sky-based clubs and foundations have pledged up to \$1 million to the [Bozeman Health COVID-19 Compassion Fund](#) to help us scale our ability to meet the needs of potential COVID-19 patients. Already, funds pledged have been put to work, allowing for the purchase of three new ventilators for BSMC and triggering the rapid buildout and doubling our emergency department and inpatient unit. You can learn more about their incredible work [here](#).

Addressing Behavioral & Mental Health Needs

Bozeman Health's COVID-19 Behavioral Health Task Force includes behavioral and spiritual health employees and is focusing on patient, employee, and community health. Patients being cared for by Bozeman Health Primary Care clinics are receiving calls to check in on their safety and mental health. We are also collaborating with community partners to address community members' behavioral health needs. [The Help Center](#) at Montana 211 will coordinate the effort across Gallatin County and will triage and support management of requests for services.

Thanks to the generosity of our community, Bozeman Health is supporting the creation of a Behavioral Health Urgi-Care Center at Gallatin Mental Health Center. This Center will be staffed with help from our community partners and private providers who will provide crisis intervention and follow-up care management. Bozeman Health's Emergency Department will provide back-up services and consultation. To support Bozeman Health employees, we have deployed *Care Carts* with refreshments to express appreciation and check on wellbeing. Telephone-based counseling is also available for employees through our Employee Assistance Program.

How You Can Help

Bozeman Health Foundation established the [Bozeman Health COVID-19 Compassion Fund](#) to allow donors to help us scale our facilities and equipment, increase and support our care team to meet growing needs, and to address the economic challenges that may be faced by diagnosed patients treated at our hospitals. For information about this fund, please email jason.smith@bozemanhealth.org or any member of our foundation team.

While we need to be thoughtful in what we receive, those wanting to make in-kind contributions of needed items or supplies may call the Foundation at (406) 414-1085. All offers are being documented and shared with Incident Command for their consideration.

Additionally, our partners at Greater Gallatin United Way and Bozeman Area Community Foundation announced the creation of a new Southwest Montana COVID-19 Response Fund to support non-profits and community members' immediate non-healthcare specific needs. You may learn more by reading [Southwest Montana COVID-19](#). Please visit [Volunteer MT](#) or [HRDC](#) to learn about how you can support our community's volunteer needs.

Sincerely,

John G. Hill,
President & CEO