



Administrator's Report July 27, 2021

General Hospital District Information Update:

COVID -19 State and Local Update: The United States is once again seeing a rise in COVID-19 cases, hospitalizations, and deaths. As of July 22nd, 35% of U.S. counties are experiencing high levels of community transmission. COVID-19 cases are on the rise in nearly 90% of the country and we are seeing outbreaks in areas that have low vaccination coverage. These worrisome trends are due, in part, to the rapid spread of the highly transmissible Delta variant. The Delta variant is accounting for 83.2% of the recent U.S. cases. This increase in the number of cases is putting more strain on healthcare resources and is leading to a rise in hospitalizations and deaths.

As of today, Granite County has **3** active case. There are **261** new cases in the state.

According to the Montana Response map today:

- 115,665 Total cases from Montana
- 113,024 Cases Recovered
- 942 Active cases in Montana (More than doubled)
- 81 Active Hospitalizations (More than doubled)
- 1,699 Deaths

According to the Montana Response map today:

Granite County has administered **2,162 doses** of vaccine, with **34%** of the population fully immunized.

- 48% of Montanans Fully vaccinated.
- 889,316 Total vaccine doses administered in Montana
- 441,027 Total Montanans fully immunized

In an effort to increase vaccination rates in our county, the district has teamed up with Granite Mountain Bank, Public Health and Granite Pharmacy to coordinate a vaccine event. GMB is offering a chance to win \$5000 to any Granite County resident, 12 and over, receiving a COVID-19 vaccination through August 30th. As part of GMB's Customer Appreciation Days, GCMC, together with Public Health, will be offering COVID-19 vaccines on August 10th and 11th from 10am to 2pm in the GMB lobby. Please help us spread the word so we may protect our community and give someone the chance to win this spectacular and very generous prize.

Activities /Life Enrichment:

- The department took our patients on several field trips. They made it to Lost Creek, the gate was open and were able to stop at a picnic spot to eat their lunch. On another trip, they took a drive to Moose Lake, then they drove up to Garnet on HWY. 200. The kitchen packed them a nice lunch to eat while they were there. On the return trip they drove through Helmsville. Everyone loves this trip.

- Up until it became quite warm out and the smoke increased, patients spent as much time as they could outside under the Gazebo. There have been Ice Cream Socials and lemonade outside and they enjoyed just sitting and talking to one another, daydreaming or taking a nap or two in the fresh air.

Business Department/ Revenue Cycle Team:

- The June 30th deadline to spend our 2020 COVID Relief Funds has passed and GCHD was spend almost all of it. The reporting portal is open now and data will be inputted as required. We await final guidance on the disposition of any remaining funds.
- DPHHS has reviewed our FY2018 participation in the Medicaid Critical Access Hospital Program and determined an underpayment exists and the amount of \$14,045.00 is due to GCMC.
- A three-bedroom house in Philipsburg has been rented to provide housing for travel staff. The lease became effective on July 17, 2021 and will initially run for 6 months with the option to renew. The bedrooms will be rented for \$650/ month to travel staff in order to cover our expenses.
- With the close of the FY, the department is compiling data for submission to WIPFLI in order to perform the Cost Report Audit, scheduled for September. This will be performed virtually and will reduce the costs associated with the preparation of the Cost Report.
- **The American Rescue Plan Act of 2021 (ARP)** signed into law on March 15, 2021 appropriated an additional \$8.5 billion in relief funding for eligible rural healthcare providers.
 - **HRSA's Rural Health Clinic COVID-19 Testing and Mitigation Program.** Each of our RHCs received \$100,000 per clinic site in June 2021. These funds may only be used for costs associated with testing and mitigation efforts.
 - **HRSA's Small Rural Hospital Improvement Program (SHIP).** On July 13, 2021, HRSA provided the State of Montana with over \$11.6 million to distribute to small rural hospitals with fewer than 50 beds. These funds are also intended to be used for COVID-19 testing and mitigation. GCHD expects to receive approximately \$230,000.
 - **Rural Health Clinic Vaccine Confidence (RHCVC) Program.** This grant was just approved last week in the amount of \$99,058.00 and will fund local projects aimed at increasing patient and community confidence in COVID-19 vaccination and to address equity gaps by bolstering patient literacy on the benefits of broader vaccination for other infectious diseases.

Central Supply: No Report

Clinics: Ashley Westphal, FNP has resigned effective August 31st. She is leaving GCHD in good standing and is wished every success in the future. Notification has gone out in the form of direct mailing to patients, flyers posted in the clinics and notification on our website, social media and the newspaper this week. Several applications have been received and interviews will begin this week.

Dietary: No Report

Grants: No Report

Emergency Preparedness: The Annual Fire Marshal inspection was conducted on July 7th and no issues were identified.

Environmental Services: No Report

Human Resources: Openings included two night nurses, and five CNA's. One of our past nurses is rejoining us next week and two of our previous CNAs are considering reapplying for the openings.

IT:

- Dave Lee, together with Blackfoot have increased our network connection speed by 50% and the Drummond Clinic has been upgraded as well.
- Rewiring of the Business Office and PT is complete and the Philipsburg Clinic is expected to be completed in the next week.
- The server room cooling system will be getting a redesign for efficiency and cost savings. Expected completion is in the Fall.
- The security camera system remains operational and has been capturing events. The display will be upgraded and additional cameras are scheduled for installation.

Laboratory: No Report

Maintenance / Transportation: No Report

Marketing: Ad campaigns continue to target COVID-19 vaccine promotion, accessing telehealth, as well as staff recruitment and current healthcare observances.

Medical Staff:

- New Credentials: Dr. Lillian Cavin, MD
Dr. Suzanne Aquino, MD
Ronald Hamm, PA-C
Tammy Scott, PA-C
- Re-credentialed Providers: Dr. Nicholas Pierson, MD
- Resignations: Dr. Lawrence Bub, MD

Nursing: With the Board's recent decision to separate the roles and responsibilities of the combined Director of Nursing (DON) and CEO position, the opening has been posted for the position of Director of Nursing. I will retain the position as CEO and on an interim basis, I will continue as DON until the position is filled.

June Patient Census

Intermediate Swing Bed (LTC)	= 15
Swing Bed billable days	= 0
Acute billable days	= 15 (7)
Observation Days	= 3
Outpatient Nurse Visit	= 4
Adult Day Care Visits	= 0
Deaths	= 0
ER Visits	= 42

Physical Therapy: A posting is up for an additional therapist to grow the department. Roger has been consistently very busy and we are looking at the option of expanding access to services for our Drummond patients.

June had a total: 95 Visits
Outpatient: 95
Acute Inpatient: 0
Swing Bed: 0
LTC: 0

Radiology:

- The annual evaluation of our CT scanner by Health Physics Northwest is scheduled for August 2, 2021.
- We completed 24 CT Scans in June. Again, well above the benchmark of 10 and so far with four days remaining in July, we are at 15 scans.
- The HVAC system failed to maintain proper room temperature again this past weekend. This required that we shut down the CT machine until the room could be cooled. The repair person responded immediately and recharged the unit with Freon and it started back up. It was determined there is a slow leak and dye was added to assist in identifying its exact location. If it is outside the compressor, it can be fixed. If it is inside the compressor, the unit will need to be replaced.
- In follow up of the radiology renovation project; Electrical is still waiting on 4 breakers. Three are expected to be shipped by the end of July. When these arrive they can schedule the power change over. The last breaker is expected at the end of August. This breaker is needed before the equipment can be powered up.

Respectfully submitted,
Maria Stoppler CEO/DON