

General Hospital District Information Update:

COVID -19: As of today, Granite County has a total of 15 active cases, 50 community members have recovered, a total of five required hospitalization and currently 2 are being hospitalized outside of the county. According to the Montana Response map this morning,

- 29,346 Total cases to date in Montana (230% increase in the last month)
- 18,981 Cases Recovered
- 10,060 Active cases in Montana (almost 300% increase over last month)
- 350 Active Hospitalizations (210% increase over last month)
- 305 Deaths (172% increase over last month)

Given these data points, it is important for me to note; Montana's death rate (total cases compared to total deaths) is actually down from 0.014, the end of September to 0.010 today.

Montana's hospitalization rate (active cases compared to active hospitalizations) is also down from 0.048 last month to 0.034.

- GCMC Lab has sent out 966 COVID-19 tests, as of yesterday.
- On Sunday, October 25th, the State Public Health Lab reported it is now receiving around 5000 specimens each day. The majority of these specimens are classified as Priority 1 and symptomatic, so it has been very difficult for them to manage. They are only able to process around 1500 in-house, and once they reach capacity, the other specimens have to be referred out, including Priority 1's. MSU is able to take around 1500 specimens for testing and those are driven to Bozeman every morning (Tues- Sat). Others are sent to Mako and National Jewish. There is an additional day delay because of transit for these specimens, so overall delays in receiving test results are to be expected.
- As part of the nation-wide COVID-19 Vaccination Program, the Montana Immunization Program is currently enrolling potential COVID-19 vaccine providers. I have initiated GCHD's enrollment with the Montana Immunization Program, however enrollment does not guarantee a facility will receive vaccine. The purpose of enrolling providers now is to develop an infrastructure of vaccinators to allow quick movement once a vaccine is available and to provide the information needed to make allocation and distribution decisions in the future.
- HHS has recently [announced](#) agreements with CVS and Walgreens to provide and administer COVID-19 vaccines to nursing homes around the country. HHS said that enlisting CVS and Walgreens via Operation Warp Speed would reduce the burden on LTCF sites and local health departments for vaccine handling, administration and fulfilling reporting requirements.
- As I reported at our last meeting, on August 25, 2020 CMS issued an interim final rule that makes collecting and reporting COVID-19 data, a condition of participation (CoP) for hospitals that participate in Medicare. On October 6, CMS released [guidance](#) on how it will implement its August interim final rule. The guidance includes new reporting requirements for hospitals, as well as enforcement provisions. Highlights of the guidance include:
 - the reduction of mandatory supply-related data reports to once-per-week submissions;
 - a requirement that psychiatric and rehabilitation hospitals report data only once per week;

- beginning on Nov. 1, remdesivir- and staffing-related data will be optional; and
- There are additional reporting requirements that begin Nov. 1 for data on influenza testing and patients.

CMS also described the enforcement process, which will include initial letters notifying non-compliant hospitals. The initial letters for non-compliance will start going out Wednesday and be followed by warning letters beginning three weeks after initial notifications. Hospitals that remain noncompliant will then receive a letter letting them know they will be terminated from the Medicare program unless they come into compliance within 30 days. The AHA and MHA are actively trying to appeal this decision. I have reached out directly to MHA, AHA and our legislators who are in support of an appeal.

- On October 22, 2020 HHS released a *Post-Payment Notice of Reporting Requirements* that included guidance of the categories of data elements that recipients must submit for calendar years 2019 and 2020 as part of the reporting process. It also included revised guidance on use of funds. I will let Brenda explain this more in her Financial Report.

Activities /Life Enrichment:

- Field trips last month involved traveling around the valley. They have been to many awesome locations. We have been around Georgetown Lake, up to Discovery Basin, Helmville and the Rock Creek loop. The fall colors are showing and they went very slow so all could enjoy. There was a trip in the morning and one in the afternoon, so that up to 16 Patients traveled each day. Unfortunately, October will wrap up the travel season.
- Jay continues to play music for everyone on Tuesdays via our Facebook TV Portal hooked up in the Dining Room.
- Ed Johnson also played music for our patients. Many were singing along with him. It sounded like a concert in the Courtyard, as he was able to bring his amplifier along.
- Due to COVID-19, our Church services are on hold. What we have done is make available the church channels for anyone who wants to watch. In addition, Activities is reading the Bible on Sunday afternoon. Those who want to listen have appreciated this.

Business Department/ Revenue Cycle Team: Final Cost Report numbers are still pending.

Central Supply: No Report

Clinics: No Report

Dietary: No Report

Grants: CT Project: The project is fully complete now. The astragal was installation on the CT Door by US Modular.

Emergency Preparedness: No Report

Environmental Services: No Report

Human Resources: Openings include one night nurse, four CNA's.

IT: No Report

Laboratory: No Report

Maintenance / Transportation: The new Fire panel is currently being installed and is expected to be up and running by days end tomorrow.

Marketing: Public Health gave 173 flu shots through the flu shot clinics. They also have given around 50 to the students and teachers in 3 schools in Granite County. Many have been presenting since that time, to the Drummond public health clinic. Ad campaigns currently involves the Drummond Clinic, the upcoming Mill Levy and COVID-19. I encourage everyone to Vote by November 3rd.

Medical Staff:

- New Credentials: Michael David Berven, MD Teleradiology
Miriam B. Hulkower, MD Teleradiology
- Resignations: None
- Re-credentialed Providers: None

Nursing**September Patient Census**

Intermediate Swing Bed (LTC)	= 21	Outpatient Nurse Visit	= 1
Swing Bed billable days	= 6	Adult Day Care Visits	= 3
Acute billable days	= 26	Deaths	= 3
Observation Days	= 1	ER Visits	= 29

Physical Therapy: The department is researching equipment; looking for the best equipment for balance and general fitness. The flooring will be replaced in the near future and Roger is considering changing the layout of the department for maximum efficiency of the space.

September had a total: 53 Visits

Out-Patient: 53

In-Patient: 0

Swing Bed: 0

Acute: 0

Radiology:

- We completed 8 CT Scans in September. We are at 15 already for October.
- Jill Weible has found a buyer for our old XRay Machine. They will disassemble and remove it from the room after the new machine is operational.

Safety Report: There was a situation recently in that an outlet shorted when a patient bed cord was only partially plugged into the outlet. There was a space between the plug and the outlet and the metal light cord swept by touching it and shorting the outlet. The electrician was called to immediately inspect and replace that outlet as well as examine all down line wiring. All outlets were inspected for any potential hazards and all in reach of light cords were capped to prevent this from happening again.

Respectfully submitted,
Maria Stoppler CEO/DON