Press Release

Gallatin City-County Health Department shifts from an onsite testing location to an at-home test distribution plan

At the beginning of October, the Gallatin City-County Health Department opened a free antigen test site at the Gallatin County Fairgrounds on Friday evenings and Saturday mornings. Since it’s opening, that test site has provided 1,023 free tests to people who were symptomatic, those wishing to test out of quarantine, or those who are vaccinated but have been identified as a close contact.

Due to inclement weather and a decrease in utilization, the GCCHD has decided to shift from a physical testing site to providing free at-home testing kits to Gallatin County residents who have difficulty accessing COVID-19 testing in their community. The GCCHD will be providing this service as long as tests are available. Please keep in mind, at this time, tests are a limited resource.

Any at-home test kits the health department is able to receive will be available at specific locations throughout the county. One kit per person is sufficient for testing, each kit includes two tests that should be taken 36 hours apart. Each kit will also include specific directions on how to report results to the health department and includes additional information to support those who have tested positive or have specific questions. It is very important that residents using these test kits report both negative and positive results as instructed. If you test positive on one of these at-home test kits it’s important to isolate immediately and report your results to the health department and your health care provider.

“Like vaccines, rapid at-home tests provide an additional layer of protection and are a valuable tool in our toolbox as we continue to navigate this pandemic,” Lori Christenson, Gallatin City-County Health Officer said. “The problem for many has been the cost and supply of at-home tests, which are significant barriers. The goal of this distribution plan is to try and address some of these barriers, especially for those who may otherwise not seek a test, and make these test kits accessible in locations throughout the county. These test kits are for those who are symptomatic or have had a recent exposure. Access to testing can help slow the spread of the disease, especially when detected early.”

TEST KIT DISTRIBUTION SITES: Starting Monday, December 20, tests will be available during regular business hours at the following locations. Business hours may vary and test availability may also be limited at any given time.

- Gallatin City-County Health Department
- Hebgen Basin Fire District—delivery only, please call 406-646-9094
- West Yellowstone Social Services—delivery only, please call 406-646-7311
- Belgrade Library - curbside pick-up, please call 406-388-4346
- Three Rivers Clinic, Three Forks - curbside pick-up, please call 406-285-3251
- Manhattan Library - test availability TBD
- HRDC Locations
PLEASE NOTE THE FOLLOWING:

- Test kits are provided by the state when available. These are a limited resource and are for individuals in Gallatin County who have difficulty accessing COVID-19 testing.
- If you are sick, please try and arrange for someone else to pick up a test kit for you like a neighbor, friend, or family member. If you must go out, please wear a mask. These pop-up sites will have kits available in locations that should minimize your interaction with others.
- Limit is one kit per person in your household.
- Each kit contains two tests - a single negative result should not be used to rule out COVID-19 if you continue to have symptoms. If your first test is negative, but you still have symptoms, stay home and repeat with the second test in the kit as indicated on the instructions. Follow-up with your health care provider about next steps.
- The kits available are antigen, self swabbing tests - also referred to as rapid tests.
- It is very important that individuals report all (both negative and positive) results to the Health Department.
- These tests are NOT accepted for travel testing.
- Some communities will have their own distribution plan for test kits. We will try to provide as many details as we can for all locations in Gallatin County on healthygallatin.org.
- Bozeman Health will continue to do testing at Lot H at their Bozeman campus. Lot H at Deaconess Hospital is open from 8 a.m. to 1 p.m. weekdays for travel, back to school, return to work and symptomatic and exposure testing. For the most up-to-date information, please visit their website: COVID-19 Travel Testing | Bozeman Health
  - These locations for testing will require provider orders: North 19th Lab, Deaconess Hospital Lab-building 5-first floor, Deaconess Hospital Outpatient Services Lab-building 3, and Big Sky Medical Center drive-thru.

Getting vaccinated remains the best and easiest way to keep yourself and your family safe. You can find your COVID-19 vaccine from local pharmacies and clinics throughout the county. It is highly recommended that you make a plan to get fully vaccinated and your booster shot to help protect yourself and others.

The GCCHD website provides up-to-date times, dates, and locations where you can get your COVID-19 vaccine anywhere in Gallatin County. Visit our website and make a plan to get your vaccine today.

- **Combined clinics with Gallatin City-County Health Department and Bozeman Health**
  - **Please note the new entrance starting Dec. 20.**
    - **Tuesday, December 21** - All COVID-19 as well as flu vaccines are available - from 8 a.m. to 3 p.m. at Bozeman Health Deaconess Hospital - ENTRANCE 4
    - **Wednesday, December 22** - All COVID-19 as well as flu vaccines are available - from 8 a.m. to 3 p.m. at Bozeman Health Deaconess Hospital - ENTRANCE 4
    - **Monday, December 27** - All COVID-19 as well as flu vaccines are available - from 8 a.m. to 3 p.m. at Bozeman Health Deaconess Hospital - ENTRANCE 4
    - **Tuesday, December 28** - All COVID-19 as well as flu vaccines are available - from 8 a.m. to 3 p.m. at Bozeman Health Deaconess Hospital - ENTRANCE 4
    - **Wednesday, December 29** - All COVID-19 as well as flu vaccines are available - from 8 a.m. to 3 p.m. at Bozeman Health Deaconess Hospital - ENTRANCE 4
- **Big Sky Medical Center weekly clinic hours:**
  - Wednesdays - 10 a.m. to 12 p.m. – Adult Pfizer (12+ for primary series, 18+ for booster)
  - Fridays - 10 a.m. to 12 p.m. – Moderna (18+) boosters only – starting January 7
  - Fridays - 10 a.m. to 12 p.m. – Pediatric Pfizer (5-11) primary series

- **FLU VACCINE clinics are being held at Gallatin City-County Health Department - These are walk-in clinics, no appointment necessary:**
  - **Monday, December 20** - 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. - Anyone 6 months or older should get a flu vaccine
  - **Mondays in January** - 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. - Anyone 6 months or older should get a flu vaccine

The Gallatin City-County Health Department Call Center is open five days a week, Monday through Friday from 8 a.m. to 5 p.m. to answer questions about COVID-19. Any calls received after business hours will be returned the following business day. You can reach the Call Center by phone at 406-548-0123.

The most accurate local source of information remains the GCCHD website.