



321 Madison Street
P.O. Box 336
Sheridan, MT 59749
Phone: (406) 842-5453
Fax: (406) 842-5455
www.RVMC.org

Media Contact:
Debra McNeill
406-596-0002
rvmc406@gmail.com

**Ruby Valley Medical Center Provides Proactive Procedures to Support
Infectious Respiratory Disease Containment**

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Sheridan, Montana (March 23, 2020) – The Ruby Valley Medical Center has restructured their healthcare services to prevent the transmission of any respiratory illnesses for our patients seeking care. We will continue to provide certain chronic/non-urgent medical treatments while screening for illness.

Protocols for Care of Contagious Respiratory Illness

1. **If you feel you may have been exposed to the coronavirus DO NOT COME directly to the hospital or clinic. Please call one of the following numbers to undergo a screening process:**
 - a. Ruby Valley Medical Center (406) 842-5453
 - b. Twin Bridges Clinic (406) 684-5546
 - c. Public Health (406) 683-4295
2. The following questions will be asked:
 - a. In the **last 14 days**, have you traveled to an area that has been identified as having the coronavirus?
 - b. Have you had **prolonged, direct contact** with a CONFIRMED COVID-19 positive patient?
 - c. Have you had a fever of **greater than 100.0 °F within the last 72 hours?**

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- d. Do you have a **new cough** and/or **shortness of breath** and/or **body aches**?
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- 3. If we feel you should be tested for coronavirus, we will give you instructions on how that will be accomplished. All testing requires an order from a healthcare provider.

 - 4. Please keep in mind that the majority of people who are infected with Covid-19 will **most likely not need hospitalization**. They will need isolation and supportive treatment such as increased fluid intake, rest and medications to control the virus.

 - 5. **Reasons to come directly to the hospital include:**
 - a. Uncontrolled fevers
 - b. Shortness of breath
 - c. Severe dehydration
 - d. Other complicating diseases such as **COPD, emphysema, and/or any other respiratory disorders**.

 - 6. If you are able, **please call ahead** to (406) 842-5453 (after hours, dial extension 3207), and alert our staff so we may take proper precautions for your safety, ours and that of our current patients within our facility.

 - 7. **You can protect yourself by:**
 - a. Washing your hands five times a day for at least 20 seconds
 - b. Avoid touching your face
 - c. Keep a respectable social distance from other individuals, which is recommended to be approximately six feet
 - d. Get plenty of sleep and support your immune system.

Chronic/Non-Urgent Medical Services

When visiting the Ruby Valley Medical Center or the Twin Bridges Clinic, you must be screened for fever and symptoms at the main entrance. Ruby Valley residents will receive chronic/non-urgent medical services at the Twin Bridges Clinic located at 104 S. Madison Street (behind the post office). The clinic will be open from 8:30am to 5pm (closed 12pm-1pm for lunch) Monday through Friday starting March 23rd. Please call (406) 684-5546 for an appointment with Dr. Molly Biehl. If you have a potentially contagious illness, please do not go to the Twin Bridges Clinic. Any contagious issues will be cared for through the Ruby Valley Medical Center in Sheridan and you should call (406) 842-5453 to speak with a healthcare provider.

Kathy Meyer, D.C., will continue seeing chiropractic patients on Tuesdays and Thursdays. Judy Weitzel's patients will see her at the Twin Bridges Clinic on Wednesdays and Thursdays.

Dayna Thergeson, CPNP, is suspending all well-child appointments except for newborns. She will check on newborns at home. Dayna will see pediatric patients at the Ruby Valley Medical Center in Sheridan on Tuesdays and Thursdays.

Patients with appointments to see Scott Rigdon, CRNA, should go to the Ruby Valley Medical Center and be screened at the front entrance. Arrangements have been made to mitigate contact with any potentially infectious patients and you will be given instructions on where to enter the building for your appointment.

Ruby Valley Medical Center is actively evaluating their procedures to ensure that our community stays healthy and receives excellent healthcare. Please visit our Facebook page and website (www.RVMC.org) for news of any changes to procedures or updates related to the coronavirus.

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About the Ruby Valley Medical Center

The Ruby Valley Medical Center is a critical access hospital and Montana designated trauma receiving facility serving Sheridan, Twin Bridges, Alder, Laurin, Silver Star, Virginia City, Nevada City and Waterloo. The Medical Center offers five in-patient beds, two observation beds, diagnostic imaging, laboratory, physical therapy, speech language pathology, swing bed, 24 hour emergency care and a highly qualified nursing staff. Our healthcare providers support patients through the Ruby Valley Medical Center and the clinics in Sheridan and Twin Bridges. Our clinics offer a wide range of healthcare services including pediatrics, well-woman exams, sports physicals, geriatrics, mental health, osteopathic care, chiropractic care, treatment for chronic pain and tele-medicine to off-site specialists. Our visiting specialists provide podiatric, gynecological, surgical, and hearing services. The Ruby Valley Medical Center also provides mobile emergency medical services through Ruby Valley Emergency Medical Services. The Ruby Valley Medical Center receives financial support from the Ruby Valley Healthcare Foundation and the Ruby Valley Medical Center Auxiliary.

Attached photos: RVMCExterior20190711.jpg

