

South Big Horn County Hospital District Release: Week of 4/6/2020

South Big Horn County Hospital and Midway Clinic are open for business and ready to see all patients. All staff, patients, and visitors are screened prior to entering the facility for influenza-like symptoms. Further, we are asking everyone to wear a mask while in the facility. Whether coming to the Emergency Department or Midway Clinic, please notify staff of any influenza-like symptoms you may have or possible exposures you may have had that could have resulted in your illness.

With very few exceptions, South Big Horn Hospital and Bonnie Bluejacket Memorial Nursing Home are not allowing any visitation.

As always, medical emergencies should contact 911 for assistance. Please alert 911 dispatch of the nature of your medical emergency so that the first responders and hospital staff can be prepared to provide appropriate care. If your medical emergency involves suspected influenza-like illness inform the ambulance crew and hospital staff of your symptoms and any possible exposures you may have had that could have resulted in your illness.

If you choose to self-present at the Emergency Room please call ahead so staff can be prepared to receive you and provide appropriate care. You will be given directions on how to enter the facility and receive care. Upon arrival, notify staff and your healthcare provider of your symptoms and any possible exposures you may have had that could have resulted in your illness. The Emergency Department phone number is 568-1501.

Midway Clinic has appointments available. Call 568-3311 to schedule an appointment. Please alert the staff making your appointment of any respiratory illness symptoms you may have and any possible exposures you may have had that could have resulted in your illness.

Influenza A and B as well as strep testing is available on-site with results in about 10 minutes. These tests still require provider orders.

We have an adequate supply of COVID-19 test kits and shipping media. We are able to send samples to both the Wyoming Public Health Laboratory and the Mayo Labs. Turnaround time for Wyoming Public Health Lab is ~48 hours and ~5 days from the Mayo Labs. Patients must have COVID-like symptoms and provider orders for these samples to be taken and processed. Testing priority will be given according to the guidelines of each laboratory.

Our facility has shipped eight COVID-19 tests to-date, all results so far have been negative.

We received the following from Cari Roark Sloma the Director of the Wyoming Public Health Laboratory on 4/3/2020:

*The Wyoming Department of Health (WDH) sent out guidance today indicating that the WPHL **will no longer accept samples from patients who do not fall within the department's priority categories.***

In other words, WPHL may reject specimens from your laboratory if they are not from patients who meet WDH's testing priorities.

As you know, there is a national shortage of RNA extraction kits that are necessary for testing. In order for WPHL to continue testing our specimens from patients in the high testing priority categories, we must conserve the remaining reagents we have.

WDH has posted an updated [State Health Advisory](#) that outlines this change and lists the WPHL testing priorities, which are:

- Hospitalized patients (including hospitalized patients being tested prior to discharge to a long-term care facility)*
- Patients or staff in communal settings such as nursing homes, assisted living facilities or shelter*
- Healthcare workers and first responders who provide direct patient care*
- People over 65 or with underlying health conditions that put them at risk for severe illness*
- People who have close contact with people who are over 65 or who have underlying health conditions*
- Pregnant women*

In closing, please continue to practice appropriate social distancing, cough etiquette and handwashing. All of these in combination will help keep you and others healthy!