Montana Healthcare Coalitions Newsletter – October 14, 2021

New and Noteworthy

0xygen Supply Disruption

Recently, facilities may have received letters from their oxygen vendors regarding increases of liquid oxygen demand across the northwest. This increased demand has the potential for supply chain disruption for your facilities. In an effort to alleviate the problem, DPHHS has gathered information on oxygen suppliers, primary contacts and delivery options throughout Montana. Please see the attached spreadsheet for this information. We encourage facilities to closely monitor oxygen supply and take steps to acquire additional supply before an emergency is imminent.

Montana Healthcare Responder Request Form

Please use the following link to submit requests for volunteers to fill in for staffing gaps within your facility. https://PHEP.formstack.com/forms/mt_healthcare_responder_request_form

Emergency Rule Waiving 25 Mile Rule

Please see the attached document for the emergency rule waiving the 25 mile rule regarding access to CAH swing beds.

COVID-19 Resources for Pediatric Healthcare Leaders and Clinicians

The COVID-19 Resources for Pediatric Healthcare Leaders and Clinicians webpage is now available on PHE.gov. The webpage includes resources for pediatric health care providers and their facilities to stay up-to-date on the latest information regarding the pandemic. Health care providers can use the webpage to plan how to best protect pediatric patient health.

CDC Provides Recommendations for Tribal Communities Amidst COVID-19

CDC recently released Recommendations for Tribal Ceremonies and Gatherings During the COVID-19 Outbreak. These recommendations aim to help tribal communities, elders, and leaders decide how best to keep their communities safe and prevent the spread of COVID-19. These considerations are meant to support—not replace— tribal laws, rules, and regulations aimed at protecting the health of tribal communities.

Data and Situational Awareness

EMResource Tip Sheet

Recently we have been receiving questions regarding getting information from EMResource relevant to transfers. Please review and share the attached EMResource Tip Sheet for questions about finding bed availability, contacts for transfers and additional tips on capturing relevant information. Please reach out the hppcoordinators@mtha.org with questions.

Changes to Hospital Occupancy and Capacity in Montana Report

Beginning Monday the DPHHS *Hospital Occupancy and Capacity in Montana* report will change to better reflect the current situation.   To date, the report has used HHS: All Inpatient Beds and HHS: All Inpatient Bed Occupancy as well as HHS: ICU Beds and HHS: ICU Bed Occupancy. Through extensive data analysis of EMResource and information reported on the PPS CMO calls, new fields have been identified. This report will now utilize HHS: Adult Hospital Inpatient Beds, HHS: Adult Hospital Inpatient Bed Occupancy, HHS: Adult ICU Beds and HHS: Adult ICU Bed Occupancy. This change will allow for capacities over 100% to show a more accurate picture.

You do not need to change any of your reporting into EMResource. Please remember that when reporting All Inpatient Beds and Adult Inpatient Beds, these capacity measures should reflect the beds that can be staffed within the facility. Per the FAQs, the number of staffed beds is flexible and may change from day to day as the facility's needs change. Facilities should be considering specialty beds, such as behavioral health or OB beds, if they are part of the surge workflow and could be used for inpatient beds. This number may be higher than your number of licensed beds because of the beds being considered in the HHS definitions.

If you have questions regarding EMResource reporting, please contact hppcoordinators@mtha.org.

Just a friendly reminder that facilities need to update the Therapeutic Fields in EMResource on Wednesday. As Therapeutics transition to State distribution, this information will be important for allocation decisions. More information will be forthcoming.

Missed Data in TeleTracking
If a facility misses a day reporting into EMResource and TeleTracking, there is a process for doing a manual entry backdate. Users must log into the TeleTracking then click on Add New Entry. There is now a dropdown where you can choose the date to submit data for. This process is much simpler than uploading the template for missed data. Ensure that **ALL** fields are entered or the data will not be counted for compliance. **We still encourage hospitals to enter data into EMResource *daily* by 1200.**

Upcoming Events

OSHA COVID-19 Emergency Temporary Standards (ETS) for Healthcare
October 15, 2021 11:00 am – 12:00 noon MT
Although we are well into the second year of the COVID-19 Pandemic, OSHA just recently formalized COVID-19 workplace requirements by publishing standards in the Federal Register. The standards are designed to protect employees in healthcare settings where suspected or confirmed COVID-19 patients are treated. This webinar will walk you through those standards assisting you to create a safer environment for your employees while achieving compliance.
https://attendee.gotowebinar.com/register/8364637380892438288

Montana Association of DES Coordinators Conference
October 19 - 21, 2021
DoubleTree by Hilton Hotel Billings
POC- Georgia Bruski 406-775-8721 or ccdes42@gmail.com

National Continuity Training Program- Virtual
K-1301- Continuity Planning—FEMA Region VIII
October 19-22, 2021 09:00-13:00 MT

K-1301- Continuity Planning—FEMA Region VIII Virtual Session
October 19-22, 2021 09:00-13:00 MT
To register: https://training.fema.gov/netc_online_admissions/

Weitzman ECHO Series on COVID-19
5-part series addressing updates on pediatric vaccines, boosters, engagement, and promising practices
Next Session: October 20, 10-11am MST
Join us as we discuss updates to the pandemic, how organizations have shifted their workforce, vaccine boosters, and promising practices moving forward.
We will be joined again by Dr. Stephen Scholand to give us COVID-19 (and variant) updates at the beginning of each session.
At the end of each session, our expert panelists will answer your questions, so join us live so you can engage with the panel and hear from your peers across the country!
If you cannot make the live session, the slides and recording will be sent to all who register for the series and posted on the website.
Topics Will Include:
- Fundamentals of Team-Based Care Within the Setting of COVID-19 – Review & Reintroduction
- Boosters for Immunocompromised and Patients at High Risk
- Pediatric Vaccines in the Team-Based Care Model
- Community Engagement Pathways
- Supporting Staff & Sharing Best Practices in Navigating COVID-19

8th Annual ICDP Disaster Symposium
Wednesdays, October 20 and 27, 11:30 AM – 1:00 PM MT Time
To register: https://www.train.org/utah If registering for all 4 sessions use this **Course # 1065094**

If registering for individual sessions use these course numbers to register:
Oct 20 *Veterinary response to animals in disasters* Course # 1099078
Oct 27 *The Virginia Tech Tragedy: A Survivors Retrospective* Course # 1099079
The Symposium is free thanks to support from Intermountain Healthcare and ASPR funding!

Great Montana Shakeout earthquake exercise
Thursday, October 21, 2021 10:21
Register: https://www.shakeout.org/
Any agency can participate by registering at Great Shakeout Earthquake Drills - Select Your Shakeout Region "It's as easy as 1, 2, 3"
Download supporting material "How to Participate"

The Montana Regional Healthcare Coalitions (RHCC) will be participating by:
  1. Alerting message via email addresses only to test that method of redundant communications.
  2. How will we know you received the message? By clicking on Formstack survey link Montana Regional Healthcare Coalition Contact Form - Formstack where you can help us improve our regional communications by providing your agency/facility preferred contacts and method of contacting. Please also select which contact you are for your Organization.

K0449 (Virtual) ICS Curricula Train the Trainer
Course Dates:
Fiscal Year 2022 (FY2022)
• October 25–29, 2021
• February 7–11, 2022
• March 21–25, 2022
• August 8–12, 2022
• September 19–23, 2022
Course is 5 days in length- 06:30- 15:30 Mountain Time
Mandatory homework and group collaboration after the instruction ends
Registration: https://training.fema.gov/netc_online_admissions
EMI POC: Rick Flick (301) 447-1633 or Russell.flick@fema.dhs.gov

CISM Basic Group and Individual Peer Support
October 26-28, 2021
Scobey Lutheran Church, 2020 Timmons St
Registration for this class is $50 per attendee
POC- Carol Burroughs 406-580-4443 or carolatwork@montana.net

Crisis Management for School-Based Incidents for Key Decision Makers
November 9-10 in Missoula

The training is free to attend and will be in-person.
The two-day course will provide content instruction, develop concept-specific skills, and provide opportunities for law enforcement, school personnel, and community stakeholders to collaboratively apply the course objectives in scenario-based applications.
Please see the attached flyer for the registration link.

Montana DLI Virtual Fall 2021 SafetyFest
November 15-19, 2021
Information and registration: https://safetyfestmt.dli.mt.gov/billings-2021

K-1302- Continuity Program Management—FEMA Region VIII
November 16-19, 2021   08:00-12:00 MT
To register: https://training.fema.gov/netc_online_admissions/

CISM Basic Group and Individual Peer Support
November 29-December 1, 2021
Bozeman- location and other info TBA
POC- Carol Burroughs 406-580-4443 or carolatwork@montana.net

HSEP course is now virtual.
Please see hyperlink below for further information and registration.
https://cdp.dhs.gov/training/course/AWR-336-W

Chemical Security Seminars 2021
December 1, 8, and 15, 2021, from 9 am to 1 pm MT
The Cybersecurity and Infrastructure Security Agency (CISA) invites you to attend the virtual 2021 Chemical Security Seminars
These seminars will feature important chemical security information for industry organizations, facility owners and operators, government officials, first responders, and law enforcement. Sessions will discuss and share the latest in chemical security best practices, including:
- The state of chemical security—updates for the Chemical Facility Anti-Terrorism Standards (CFATS) program and ongoing voluntary chemical security efforts
- CISA leadership's priorities and vision
- Case studies from industry representatives
- A discussion on ransomware incidents and best practices
- A deep-dive into the 18 CFATS Risk-Based Performance Standards (RBPS), including best practices
- Chemical threat and economic espionage briefings
- Challenges encountered with chemical security during the COVID-19 pandemic
- The convergence of cyber and physical security

Registration for the 2021 Chemical Security Seminars is now open! The Seminars are free to attend and open to the public.
Please register no later than November 30, 2021.
Registrants will receive the links to join virtually through Microsoft Teams closer to the date of the Seminars.
For questions or comments, please visit the Chemical Security Summit webpage or email the Chemical Seminars Team at ChemicalSummitReg@hq.dhs.gov.

LSU NCBRT/ACE Upcoming Courses
Upcoming open national courses listed below. These courses are available to your agency or organization at no cost. Click on each course name for additional information.
- MGT-324-C: Campus Emergencies Prevention, Response and Recovery
- AWR-122-C: Law Enforcement Prevention and Deterrence of Terrorist Acts
- AWR-324: Biological Incidents Awareness: COVID-19
- AWR-219-C: Site Protection Through Observational Techniques
- AWR-315: Fundamentals for Criminal Intelligence

Engagement and Other News
ASPR COVID-19 Guidance, Reports and Resources
- NEW [ASPR TRACIE TA: Hospital and Fire Department Roles in Decontamination Incidents](#)
- NEW [ASPR TRACIE Express- Highlighting New Healthcare Resources](#)
- UPDATED [Testing for COVID-19](#)
- UPDATED [Getting Your CDC COVID-19 Vaccination Record Card](#)
- UPDATED [How Do I Find a COVID-19 Vaccine?](#)

Communications and Cyber Resiliency Toolkit
CISA is pleased to announce the *Public Safety Communications and Cyber Resiliency Toolkit* has been updated to include new resources and can be found on the SAFECOM Technology Resources webpage [cisa.gov/safecom/technology](#) under "Communications and Cyber Resiliency."

The Toolkit is a collection of resources for public safety agencies and others responsible for communications networks to assist with evaluating current resiliency capabilities, identifying ways to improve resiliency, and developing plans for mitigating the effects of potential resiliency threats. It is designed to be user-friendly and features an interactive graphic where topic specific system-based resources appear as building shapes (blue) and threats are cloud shapes (red).

Current topic areas include:
- Alerts, Warnings, and Notifications (AWNs)
- Cyber Incidents
- Cybersecurity
- Electromagnetic Pulse (EMP)
- Jamming
- Local Access Networks (LAN)
- Next Generation 911 (NG911)
- Positioning, Navigation, and Timing (PNT) Disruptions
- Power
- Priority Services
- Ransomware
- Resiliency Introduction
- Site Hardening
- Unmanned Aircraft Systems (UAS)

The Toolkit is expandable and maintained as a living site to allow for future resources and topic areas. Originally published in July 2020, the Toolkit has been refreshed and the updated version is now available. The enhanced version features 48 resources over 14 topic areas and includes not only CISA guidance, but also guidance from other trusted resources, such as the Association of Public-Safety Communications Officials (APCO), the Federal Communications Commission (FCC), and the National Institute of Standards and Technology (NIST). We are also unveiling a new look and feel designed to enhance the user experience.

Updated Crisis Care Guidance
On behalf of DPHHS, here is information on the release of the updated crisis care guidance as well as links to the guidelines.
Front Matter:
https://dphhs.mt.gov/publichealth/cdepi/diseases/CoronavirusMT/MontanaCrisisCareGuidanceFrontMatter.pdf
Overview & Materials:
https://dphhs.mt.gov/publichealth/cdepi/diseases/CoronavirusMT/MontanaCrisisCareGuidanceOverviewMaterials.pdf

Link to PowerPoint for FEMA Public Assistance Reimbursement for COVID-19

Below is a link to the MT DES Website with a recorded training for eligible applicant agents (such as non-profit hospitals) seeking financial reimbursement from FEMA through Montana Disaster and Emergency Services Public Assistance, for COVID-19 related expenses.
 https://des.mt.gov/Recovery/Recovery-Program

Provider Relief Fund (PRF) Phase 4 and American Rescue Plan (ARP) rural distribution
The Health Resources and Services Administration (HRSA), opened the online portal for health care providers to apply for funding from the Provider Relief Fund (PRF) Phase 4 and American Rescue Plan (ARP) rural distribution. Eligible health care providers will be able to apply for $25.5 billion in relief funds, including $8.5 billion in ARP resources for providers who serve rural patients covered by Medicare, Medicaid, or the Children's Health Insurance Program (CHIP) and $17 billion for PRF Phase 4 for a broad range of providers with changes in operating revenues and expenses.

Providers must submit their completed application by the final deadline of October 26, 2021, at 11:59 p.m. ET. In order to expedite and streamline the application process and minimize administrative burdens, providers will apply for both programs in a single application. More information on the application portal, eligibility for the PRF, and the methodologies can be found online: https://www.hrsa.gov/provider-relief/future-payments.

HRSA will be hosting webinar sessions for Phase 4 and ARP rural applicants, featuring guidance on how to navigate the application portal:
- Thursday, September 30, 3:00 – 4:00 p.m. ET – register to attend
- Tuesday, October 5, 3:00 – 4:00 p.m. ET – register to attend
- Wednesday, October 13, 3:00 – 4:00 p.m. ET – register to attend

Additionally, HRSA is committed to transparency and proactive communications around PRF payments. To this end, HRSA published detailed information about how the PRF Phase 3 payments were calculated. Providers that believe their PRF Phase 3 payment was not calculated correctly according to this methodology can submit the completed form online by the deadline November 12, 2021, at 11:59 p.m. ET. Applicants are encouraged to apply early to facilitate review and expedite any revised payments made as a result of the reconsiderations process.

Questions
We are committed to supporting you and answering questions as quickly as possible. Please send any questions or comments to hppcoordinators@mtha.org.
Visit the Montana Regional Healthcare Coalitions website for additional information and resources.

Casey Driscoll, CPHQ
Southern Coalition Readiness and Response Coordinator, MHA
Office: (406) 457-8045 | Cell: (406) 560-1893 | casey.driscoll@mtha.org
2625 Winne Avenue, Helena, MT 59601
www.mtha.org | Facebook | Twitter

EMResource Tip Sheet

Where do I look to see if a facility has bed availability?
- The main splash page has bed availability for Adult ICU and Med/Surge Beds. If you want additional details, click on the facility name and look at the Bed Availability categories.
  - Some CAHs report their non-skilled swing beds as Long Term Care beds, however some include attached, but separate, nursing homes in that field.
    - Fields of importance:
      - Bed Capacity: Adult ICU
      - Bed Capacity: Medical Surgical
      - Bed Capacity: Long Term Care
      - Bed Availability: Adult ICU
      - Bed Availability: Med/Surg
      - Bed Availability: Long Term Care
  - Please note that, while these fields may have a recent timestamp, the facility may not be updating these fields regularly.

Who do I contact for transfers?
- Last fall, EMResource was updated to include the facility contact information for inter-facility transfers. This is the point of contact for a facility's ability to receive a patient. To access that information, click on the facility name to get to the individual facility's information.

Type:	Sample Hospital
Address:	521 1st Ave NW Great Falls, MT 59404
County:	Cascade
Lat/Longitude:	47.508936 / -111.321171
EMResource/AHA ID:	177286 /
Website:	
Contact:	Transfer Primary Contact
Contact Title:	
Phone 1:	406-123-4567
Phone 2:	
Fax:	406-456-7891
Email:	person@hospital.com
Notes:	Next Person to Contact Sally Stephen 406-234-5678

I do not see both PPS and CAH hospitals on the splash page, how do I fix that?
- Users have the ability to change the types of facility they are able to view.
  - Click on the View tab at the top of the page and select the Resource Type that you would like. Most useful will be Regional Default, Hospitals, Critical Access Hospitals or your respective Region.
- If would like all Hospitals and Critical Access Hospitals to be your default view, email hppcoordinators@mtha.org and we will get that fixed for you.

What additional information would be helpful to put in EMResource?
- Please enter your bed capacity and bed availability on a frequent basis. We understand that the HHS data is required and this is information is included in those fields but, currently, HHS data is not shared.

- If you are facing a critical staffing shortage for the day or week, please enter the number and type of staff that you are short in the Comment section for HHS: Critical Staffing Shortage Today measure.

Letter to CEOs
In the near future the HPP program will be sending a letter to hospital CEOs requesting approval to make the HHS data fields visible to all users in EMResource. This information is important to be able to share because it is updated daily by the majority of facilities, includes additional information that just bed capacity and availability, and will positively impact situational awareness for all users. These fields will either be visible to all or hidden from all, we cannot only make the information visible for some facilities. We encourage you to reach out to your CEO to approve this request to better facilitate patient transfers within your region.

Contact Information
Don McGiboney
Healthcare Preparedness Program Manager, DPHHS
dmcgiboney@mt.gov
406-444-5942

Cindee McKee
Healthcare Coalition Director, MHA
Cindee.mckee@mtha.org
406-457-8027

Kyrsten Brinkley
Western Region Coalition Coordinator, MHA
Kyrsten.brinkley@mtha.org
406-370-0875

Casey Driscoll
Southern Region Coalition Coordinator, MHA
Casey.driscoll@mtha.org
406-457-8045

Robbie Kavon
Eastern Region Coalition Coordinator, MHA
Roberta.kavon@mtha.org
406-489-3182

Kitty Songer
Central Region Coalition Coordinator, MHA
Kitty.songer@mtha.org
406-465-4484

The Center for Rural Development

RDPC
Rural Domestic Preparedness Consortium

"Prepare for the worst. Train to be the best."
www.ruraltraining.org | 877-855-RDPC (7372)

MGT 417: Crisis Management for School-Based Incidents for Key Decision Makers

MGT 417 is a tuition free, management-level, DHS/FEMA-certified course that provides operational-level details to support many of the topics covered in AWR148: Crisis Management for School-Based Incidents – Partnering Rural Law Enforcement, First Responders, and Local School Systems. Rural schools, law enforcement, other emergency responders, and community stakeholders are often limited in their access to resources, so it is imperative that all potentially affected parties collaborate in planning, preparation, communication, response, and recovery in the event of a school-based incident. Moreover, these affected parties must come together to practice their interoperable skills through drills and exercises to ensure the strategies in place provide for an effective crisis response and collaborative recovery. With the intent of building upon the foundation of AWR148 and utilizing an all-hazards approach, this two-day course will provide content instruction, develop concept-specific skills, and provide opportunities for law enforcement, school personnel, and community stakeholders to collaboratively apply the course objectives in scenario-based applications.

Topics include (but not limited to):

• All-Hazards Planning and Preparedness
• Vulnerability Assessments
• Threat Assessment Management
• All-Hazards Response
• All-Hazards Recovery
• Scenario-Based Activities

Who Should Attend:

• All First Responders—especially Law Enforcement
• School Administrators
• School Safety and Security Personnel
• Community Emergency Management Personnel
• Community Mental Health Personnel
• Community Stakeholders

Location:

Missoula, Montana

Address:

University of Montana
University Center Room 330/331
32 Campus Drive
Missoula, MT 59812

Sponsoring Agency

Montana Safe Schools Center

Course Date: | **Course Time:**
Nov. 9 & November 10, 2021 | Day 1:8:00am-4:00pm Day 2:8:00am-3:30pm MT

Course Registration Deadline (date/time):

October 26, 2021 / 5:00pm MT

Prerequisites:

*Non-U.S. citizens are required to complete a DHS Foreign National Visitor Request form 30 days in advance. Contact RDPC at **877-855-RDPC (7372)** for more info.*

• Registration is **required** through the **RDPC website.** Register at https://ruraltraining.org/course/MGT-417/?scheduled=true&id=2198

NOTE: Some states require their own registration IN ADDITION TO REGISTERING ON THE RDPC WEBSITE.

• If applicable, please complete state registration by visiting http://coehs.umt.edu/specunits/montana_safe_schools_center/

Please register no later than 2 weeks before the course date. A minimum of 20 registrations must be received by this date to ensure the class will be held.

FEMA S.I.D. REQUIRED. Register for your FEMA Student Identification Number by visiting **https://cdp.dhs.gov/femasid**

For more information regarding this course, please contact the following:

Course Contact Person	Course Contact Phone#	Course Contact Email Address
John Kayser	**419-434-5814**	**kayser@findlay.edu**

State Registration Point of Contact (POC)	State Registration POC Phone#
Nancy Berg	**406-243-4973**

State Registration POC Email Address	State Registration POC Fax#
Nancy.Berg@mso.umt.edu	

FEMA — ALL HAZARDS — A University of Findlay Training Center

BEFORE THE DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC
HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES
OF THE STATE OF MONTANA

In the matter of the adoption of)	NOTICE OF ADOPTION OF
Temporary Emergency Rule I)	TEMPORARY EMERGENCY RULE
pertaining to waiver of swing bed)	
requirements)	

TO: All Concerned Persons

     1. The Department of Public Health and Human Services (department) is adopting the following emergency rule to optimize the department's, providers', and other stakeholders' continued response to COVID-19, and to ensure access to services and supports to meet the needs of Montanans affected by COVID-19.

     2. Because the process for the promulgation of administrative rules under the Montana Administrative Procedure Act (Title 2, Chapter 4 of the Montana Code Annotated) is inflexible in terms of certain mandated timelines, the typical process for promulgating administrative rules to change current regulatory requirements would result in a situation where the department's ability to adequately respond to the pandemic would be temporarily disrupted.

     3. Since August 2021, the number of newly diagnosed COVID-19 cases has increased significantly in Montana.[1] This has led to a significant increase in the number of hospitalizations and deaths statewide. The increased number of individuals with COVID-19 requiring hospitalization is creating significant challenges to Montana's hospital systems, which are reaching or exceeding their bed capacity limits (e.g., acute care and intensive care beds) and the availability of equipment/supplies (e.g., ventilators).[2] Additionally, hospitals across the state are experiencing significant staffing shortages (e.g., nurses, nurses' aides). Because of these challenges, Montana hospitals need to be able to efficiently discharge patients when they otherwise become eligible for discharge to other care settings.

     4. A swing bed hospital is a licensed hospital, critical access hospital, or licensed medical assistance facility that has federal approval to provide post-hospital, skilled nursing care to patients. A swing bed is a bed approved under federal regulations to provide either acute care or extended skilled nursing care to a patient. A swing bed is used to transition a patient from acute care to skilled nursing care without leaving the hospital.

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[1] Montana Department of Public Health and Human Services. Interim Analysis of COVID-19 cases in Montana (as of 9/3/2021) https://dphhs.mt.gov/assets/publichealth/CDEpi/DiseasesAtoZ/2019-nCoV/EpiProfile/EPIPROFILE_09032021_final.pdf

[2] Montana Department of Public Health and Human Services. COVID-19 Hospital Occupancy and Capacity in Montana Status Report as of 9/13/2021 https://dphhs.mt.gov/assets/publichealth/CDEpi/DiseasesAtoZ/2019-nCoV/Reports/HospitalReport09132021.pdf

5. Under ARM 34.40.402 and 37.40.405, before transferring a Medicaid member to a swing bed, the swing bed hospital must determine that no appropriate nursing facility bed is available to the patient within a 25-mile radius of the hospital, and the hospital must maintain written documentation of inquiries made to nursing facilities about the unavailability of an appropriate bed. When a nursing facility bed within a 25-mile radius of the hospital becomes available, the administrative rules require that the hospital discharge the Medicaid patient to the appropriate nursing facility bed within 72 hours of the nursing facility bed becoming available.

6. Hospital systems, including critical access hospitals that serve rural populations in Montana, are experiencing a surge of demand for medical services by Montanans infected with the COVID-19 virus, in particular the highly contagious Delta variant which is now the predominant strain in Montana. In addition to facing the demand for medical services, hospitals are experiencing staff shortages and need to reduce administrative burden on staff in the management of available beds and services. The department has received communications from hospital systems and other stakeholders that the administrative swing bed requirements impose a significant burden on hospitals in this challenging time.

7. For the foregoing reasons, the department adopts this emergency rule. Promulgation of this emergency rule is necessary because no other administrative action can be taken that would alleviate the burden imposed by the requirements being waived and enable hospitals and critical access hospitals to continue to address the COVID-19 public health emergency in an effective and efficient manner. EMERGENCY RULE I provides a statement of department intent to exercise regulatory discretion related to, and waive compliance with, specific administrative rules of Montana to address the problems identified above. This rule will remain in effect no longer than 120 days after the date of adoption.

8. The Department of Public Health and Human Services will make reasonable accommodations for persons with disabilities who need an alternative accessible format of this notice. If you require an accommodation, contact Heidi Clark at the Department of Public Health and Human Services, Office of Legal Affairs, P.O. Box 4210, Helena, Montana, 59604-4210; telephone (406) 444-4094; fax (406) 444-9744; or e-mail dphhslegal@mt.gov.

9. The emergency rule is effective immediately, September 17, 2021.

10. The text of the emergency rule provides as follows:

<u>EMERGENCY RULE I WAIVER OF SWING BED REQUIREMENTS DURING EMERGENCY</u> The department will exercise regulatory discretion and waive compliance with:
    (1) Swing bed requirements in ARM 37.40.405(1)(b) and (2).
    (2) To the extent necessary to facilitate payment under Medicaid, ARM 37.40.402 (1)(b)(i)(A) through (D).

AUTH: 2-4-303, 53-2-201, 53-6-113, MCA
IMP: 53-2-201, 53-6-101, 53-6-111, 53-6-113, MCA

11. The rationale for the temporary emergency rules is as set forth in paragraphs 1 through 7.

12. It is presently unknown whether a standard rulemaking procedure will be undertaken prior to the expiration of these temporary emergency rules. The necessity and efficacy of these emergency rules will be continuously evaluated as the effort to combat the COVID-19 pandemic in Montana develops.

13. The department maintains a list of interested persons who wish to receive notices of rulemaking actions proposed by this agency. Persons who wish to have their name added to the list shall make a written request that includes the name, e-mail, and mailing address of the person to receive notices and specifies for which program the person wishes to receive notices. Notices will be sent by e-mail unless a mailing preference is noted in the request. Such written request may be mailed or delivered to the contact person in paragraph 8 or may be made by completing a request form at any rules hearing held by the department.

14. The bill sponsor contact requirements of 2-4-302, MCA, do not apply to this rulemaking. Special notice, pursuant to 2-4-303, MCA, was made to each member of the Children, Families, Health, and Human Services Interim Committee and each member of the committee staff using electronic mail on September 17, 2021.

/s/ Chad G. Parker   /s/ Adam Meier
Chad G. Parker   Adam Meier, Director
Rule Reviewer   Public Health and Human Services

        Certified to the Secretary of State September 17, 2021

Oxygen Supplier Name	Phone Number	Location	24/7	Delivery
1 Airgas Store	(406) 203-1369	Missoula	Yes	Yes
2 Airgas Store	(406) 651-0300	Billings		
3 Bluebird Medical Supply Company	(406) 585-2860	Bozeman	Existing Customers Only	
4 Community Home Oxygen Inc. (Rotech)	(406) 265-3273	Havre		
5 Community Home Oxygen Inc. (Rotech)	(406) 665-2886	Hardin		
6 CPAP Solutions Inc.	(406) 761-0706	Great Falls		
7 CPAP Solutions Inc.	(406) 782-0706	Butte	Yes	Yes
8 CPAP Solutions Inc.	(406) 890-2009	Kalispell		
9 CPAP Solutions Inc.	1 (866) 761-0706	Bozeman		
10 General Distributing Company	(406) 259-5023	Billings		
11 General Distributing Company	(406) 359-6114	Glendive	Yes	Yes
12 General Distributing Company	(406) 442-7737	Helena		
13 General Distributing Company	(406) 454-1351	Great Falls		
14 General Distributing Company	(406) 586-5927	Bozeman		
15 General Distributing Company	(406) 723-5491	Butte		
16 Lincare	(406) 232-6561	Miles City		
17 Lincare	(406) 257-2531	Kalispell		
18 Lincare	(406) 265-8882	Havre	Yes	Yes
19 Lincare	(406) 449-2253	Helena		
20 Lincare	(406) 482-2366	Sidney		
21 Lincare	(406) 543-1832	Missoula		
22 Lincare	(406) 652-0773	Billings		
23 Lincare	(406) 723-2020	Butte		
24 Lincare	(406) 771-6668	Great Falls		
25 Lincare	(406) 846-2222	Deer Lodge		
26 Lincare	(406) 873-8671	Libby		
27 Lincare	(406) 873-9164	Cut Bank		
28 Norco	(406) 363-1800	Hamilton		
29 Norco	(406) 728-6362	Missoula	Operating at Above Capacity	
30 Norco	(406) 752-4804	Kalispell	No Extra	
31 Norco Billings Service Industrial	(406) 252-5339	Billings		
32 Norco Medical	(406) 494-1249	Butte		
33 Rotech	(406) 232-1321	Miles City		
34 Rotech	(406) 245-9792	Billings	During Business Hours Only No Weekends	
35 Rotech	(406) 443-3716	Helena	Existing Customers	Yes but
36 Rotech	(406) 452-0202	Black Eegle		
37 Rotech	(406) 494-6900	Butte		
38 Rotech	(406) 728-4315	Missoula		
39 Rotech Community Home Oxygen , Inc.	(406) 586-1262	Bozeman		