



Wyoming Hospital Association

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NEWS BRIEFS

Informational Newsletter for Wyoming Hospitals

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President Takes Executive Actions Aimed at Containing COVID-19 Pandemic

President Biden has taken a number of actions, including signing a series of executive orders (EOs), aimed at addressing the COVID-19 pandemic. The actions focus on expanding testing, administering vaccines and advancing racial equity, among many other areas.

These follow actions President Biden also took on rejoining the World Health Organization, encouraging masking, creating a White House COVID-19 Response Team and implementing a “whole of government approach” to examining and addressing inequities.

Many of the executive actions are part of the Administration’s National Strategy for the COVID-19 Response and Pandemic Preparedness, which has been released.

A summary of some of the executive actions are below:

- Exercising the Defense Production Act to Expand Supplies
- Reimbursing States for Personnel and Supplies
- Expanding Testing
- Mounting a Comprehensive Vaccination Campaign.
- Bolstering Access to Treatment and Clinical Care
- Improving Data
- Establishing OSHA Workplace Safety Guidance.
- Creating a Health Equity Task Force

- Promoting Safe Travel
- Supporting Students and Safely Reopening Schools
- Restoring U.S. Support to International Response to Pandemic.

In a statement, AHA President and CEO Rick Pollack said, “America’s hospitals and health systems commend President Biden and his Administration for acting swiftly to combat the COVID-19 pandemic. Ending this virus and returning to normal life are among the highest priorities we share with the Administration.

“In particular, we are pleased that the Administration will use all the tools at their disposal, including increased use of the Defense Production Act (DPA), to accelerate the availability of the supplies and equipment needed to fight COVID-19. This includes PPE for our heroic front-line caregivers and supplies needed to ramp up testing and vaccinations. We know the DPA may not be able to solve all equipment shortages, but it will certainly help.

“The directives issued by the Administration will also help increase coordination and communication among all stakeholders involved in vaccination efforts and increase access to COVID-19 vaccines, treatments and care. Importantly, they will lead to more adherence to the public health measures we know

work, especially mask wearing.

“We also applaud the Administration for implementing a government-wide approach to examining and addressing inequities affecting racial and ethnic groups, religious minorities, the LGBTQ community, rural Americans and others facing economic insecurity and inequality. This new approach includes reversal of the executive order the AHA opposed during the previous administration that prohibited federal agencies from conducting and funding diversity, inclusion and racial reconciliation trainings. We also support today’s move to restore non-discrimination protections based on gender identity or sexual orientation.

“We are pleased to see increasing federal leadership, support and resources to fight this pandemic that has devastated countless families and communities. The AHA looks forward to continuing to work with President Biden and his new Administration in addressing all aspects of COVID-19.”

WHA Calendar	
WHA Golf Tournament Casper	9/7 2021
Annual Meeting & Convention Casper	9/8-9/9 2021



2021 Contributions
Barry Burkart



NBHH Announces New CEO

Member Spotlight

Eric Connell has been named the CEO of North Big Horn Hospital (NBHH). He worked with retiring NBHH CEO Rick Schroeder for two months before Schroeder left his office for the last time in late December.

Eric is a native of Bozeman who comes to North Big Horn County from Scobey, MT, in the far northeast corner of the state. He was the CEO of Daniels Memorial Healthcare Center, which, like North Big Horn Hospital, is an affiliate of the Billings Clinic.

Connell said he is excited to be starting his position. "The reason why I'm in this job is not because I have this piece of paper that says I have a degree.

I'm here to care about people, to care for people, and I think one of the things that Rick did really well as an administrator was connect people to that service mission and get people to be compassionate," Connell said. "He did a lot of other great things, but I see that as the top priority for him and who he was. That's what I want to do, as well."

"I've seen different leaders, and the ones that loved their people were the ones that were successful. I learned you can actually do that and that's the right way to lead. I think Rick did that, and that's what I'm after more of the same, compassion and respect."

The bottom line, Connell said, is that people have choices about where they get their healthcare, even in a rural area.



Ideas, Opinions and Input on Older Resident Needs Sought

DOH Survey

The Wyoming Department of Health (WDH) is seeking ideas, opinions and other input on the needs of Wyoming's older adults and their care partners to recognize their challenges and set strategies to meet those challenges.

The Aging Division, part of WDH, is gathering information to help develop its "Wyoming Four-Year State Plan on Aging for 2021-25." This plan is essential for federal funding of Wyoming support programs for older adults, but also provides a statewide

strategy to help organizations understand how best to help older adult residents.

"Prior research has identified the preference of people to continue living in their homes and communities as they age rather than transition to nursing homes or assisted living facilities," said Jeff Clark, Community Living Section manager with WDH. "As we work on this plan, one thing we want to do is evaluate the state's capacity to support these goals while also upholding neces-

sary nursing homes and assisted living facilities."

Clark said comments from a variety of residents will be valuable and encouraged interested residents and healthcare providers to participate. "While we welcome everyone's comments, we are especially interested in comments from older adults and those who care for and support them," he said.

<https://health.wyo.gov/aging/communityliving/agingstateplan/>

Wyoming Primary Care Association

WYPCA

The Wyoming Primary Care Association supports community health centers in providing quality primary care to better serve the people of Wyoming. The WYPCA has supported health centers in Wyoming for over 20 years to help them serve their communities

The new logo represents their mission and values with a focus on serving our communities and assisting our health centers across the state.

Services Available:
Training and Technical
Grant Writing Services
Quality Improvement Initiative
Marketing of Wyoming Health Centers
Comprehensive Health Center Assessments
Recruitment and Retention Assistance and Support
Accreditation and Patient-Centered Medical Home Recognition Sources and Assistance

For more information contact:
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