



Wyoming Hospital Association

NEWS BRIEFS

Informational Newsletter for Wyoming Hospitals

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National Hospital Week

National Hospital Week is an opportunity to highlight our hospitals, health systems and health care workers and the innovative ways they are supporting the needs of their community members, especially during this pandemic.

The American Hospital Association created two new videos in tribute to health care workers. The first, "Moments," captures in short order what health care workers experienced in the past year. Visit AHA's National Hospital Week webpage (aha.org) to download this video and share it widely.

You also can customize the video and share it in your local market.

For the second video, AHA collaborated with Musicians on Call to create an original song and music video inspired by stories and reflections of health care employees at AHA member hospitals and health systems. This production will launch during National Hospital Week to commemorate all the efforts of health care workers during a year like no other.



www.nationalhospitalweek.com
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The WHA is honored to represent the healthcare heroes of Wyoming and we celebrate you.

WHA Calendar	
National Hospital Week	5/9-5/15
WHA Golf Tournament Casper	9/7 2021
Annual Meeting & Convention Casper	9/8-9/9 2021



2021 Contributions

Barry Burkart
Tim Thornell
Robin Roling
Carol Solie
Irene Richardson
Doug Faus

The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention announced relaxed [guidance](#) for mask wearing, stating that individuals fully vaccinated against COVID-19 no longer need to wear masks outdoors, except in certain crowd settings and venues.

According to CDC's definition, "fully vaccinated" individuals have reached the 14-day mark after their second doses of Pfizer or Moderna, or their first dose of Johnson & Johnson.

The updated guidance also clarifies that fully vaccinated workers no longer need to be restricted from work following an exposure as long as they are asymptomatic.

The guidance states that fully vaccinated people can:

- Visit with other fully vaccinated people indoors without wearing masks or physical distancing

CDC Update on Masks

- Visit with unvaccinated people (including children) from a single household who are at low risk for severe COVID-19 disease indoors without wearing masks or physical distancing
 - Participate in outdoor activities and recreation without a mask, except in certain crowded settings and venues
 - Resume domestic travel and refrain from testing before or after travel or self-quarantine after travel
 - Refrain from testing before leaving the United States for international travel (unless required by the destination) and refrain from self-quarantine after arriving back in the United States
 - Refrain from testing following a known exposure, if asymptomatic, with some exceptions for specific settings
 - Refrain from quarantine following a known exposure if asymptomatic
- CDC also updated its health care infection prevention and control recommendations for health care personnel, ending its recommendation of expanded screening testing of asymptomatic HCP who are fully vaccinated. The guidance also includes new information on COVID-19 vaccine protection in people who are immunocompromised and circumstances when, if all participants are fully vaccinated, visitation or communal activities could occur without use of source control or physical distancing.

Read News Briefs online at www.wyohospitals.com

Star Valley Health to Start Alpine Facility

Member Spotlight



STAR VALLEY HEALTH

A new Star Valley Health facility will be started in Alpine on May 21 in a groundbreaking event.

The facility, located at the junction of US 26 and 89, will feature an initial 12,500 square feet of space dedicated to a family practice center, laboratory, imaging center, specialty clinic, and urgent care services.

“On behalf of Star Valley Health, it is an honor to mark

this moment in the valley’s history,” said Mike Hunsaker, Star Valley Health Chief Operating Officer. “The

Star Valley Health team has been dedicated to making this project a reality and this event represents new beginnings for improved relationship and increased medical services offerings in the community.”

Star Valley Health CEO Daniel Ordyna said the valley’s hospital is dedicated to a network of sites, with specific plans to meet Alpine’s growing needs.

“Star Valley’s mission is to support individuals, families, and our community in achieving their best health,” Ordyna said. “One way we can help fulfill this mission is to establish a coordinated accessible network of ambulatory sites in the valley that delivers value to the wonderful patients we serve.”

The CEO emphasized, “Alpine will need access to more healthcare services to better serve its growing population now and in the future and Star Valley is committed to achieving this objective.”

“House Calls” Webinar

House Calls Webinar

Mountain-Pacific Quality Health and AARP State Offices in Wyoming, Hawaii, Alaska, and Montana invite family caregivers across the West region to a free webinar series starting May 14 called, “House Calls,” which will demonstrate infection protection and other ways to keep loved ones out of the hospital.

The webinar series is free, but participants are asked to register.

The webinar series comes out of the Centers for Disease Control’s (CDC) Project Firstline, which offers interactive infection prevention and control curriculum for healthcare and public health workforces and family

caregivers across the United States. The “House Calls,” series aims to close that gap and help caregivers take better care of their loved ones residing both at home and in skilled nursing facilities.

During this series, you will learn the latest news about the COVID-19 vaccination and how to keep yourself and your loved ones safe and protected from leading health experts from AARP and Mountain-Pacific Quality Health. The goal of the series is to help you take better

care of your loved ones residing both at home, in nursing homes and/or in assisted living facilities.

To take part in any of these free webinars call 301-715-8592. The webinars will feature 20-40 minute demonstrations on subject matter, while allowing for questions from the live audience. For those who want to watch the presentations, but don’t plan to answer questions, check out AARP Wyoming’s Facebook page at: [facebook.com/aarpyw](https://www.facebook.com/aarpyw).



Bill to Expand Access to Medicare Telehealth Services

Medicare Telehealth

Members of the House and Senate Telehealth Caucus last week introduced the CONNECT for Health Act (S.1512/H.R. 2903), AHA-supported legislation that would permanently remove all geographic restrictions on Medicare telehealth services and expand originating sites to include home and other sites. The bill also would expand telehealth for emergency medical care; waive restrictions on

telehealth use during national and public health emergencies; and allow rural health clinics and federally qualified health centers to serve as distant sites, among other provisions.

“During the COVID-19 pandemic, telehealth has provided a critical way for patients to continue to access needed care,” AHA said in a letter of support to the sponsors. “We applaud the introduction of this bill, which propos-

es many changes that would allow for increased access to telehealth services for patients and use by hospitals and other providers, while removing barriers to adoption.”

AHA also urged Congress to work with the Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services to ensure that Medicare provides adequate reimbursement for telehealth services to all sites of care.