



News briefs

Governor to Lift Public Health Emergency Declaration

Governor Mark Gordon has announced he has begun the process to end Wyoming's COVID-19 Public Health Emergency (PHE) declaration effective March 14.

"As we see our case numbers and hospitalizations receding, it is time to begin the shift to a new phase. This virus will be with us for the foreseeable future and we should manage it appropriately," Governor Gordon said.

"That means being personally responsible for one's own health and respectful of your family and neighbors. Use the tools we now have available and stay home when you're sick."

The Governor has been coordinating with impacted Executive Branch agencies and licensing boards to ensure they are prepared to make adjustments, where necessary. The Wyoming Department of Health will continue to serve as a resource for COVID-19 information and support.

Throughout the pandemic, the PHE declaration has provided the state with flexibility and resources for Wyoming's response and recovery efforts. Most Wyomingites will not be affected by ending the PHE. The limited scope of impacts include:

- The expiration of the federally funded SNAP emergency allotment, which will take effect May 1, 2022.

- Elimination of emergency rule changes to licensure requirements for the Board of Medicine and Board of Nursing

"I extend my appreciation to our medical community, first responders, public health officials and National Guard volunteers statewide who have shown their commitment to the people of Wyoming throughout this pandemic," the Governor said. "As we wind down from the emergency, the public can expect to see some changes in how information is relayed."

Public Health Emergency Licensure Exemption - Termination

With the expiration of the COVID-19 Public Health Emergency, the 45-day "tail" period for the licensure exemption for physicians and PAs to practice here without a Wyoming license will start. The "tail" period is intended to ensure a smooth and safe transition in patient care to Wyoming-licensed providers. As of 11:59 pm, April 28, 2022, all PHE licensure exemptions for physicians and physician assistants will terminate.

The Wyoming Board of Medicine put in place an incentive for physicians and PAs who were approved for the PHE licensure exemption to apply for "permanent" licensure

in Wyoming at a reduced fee. Exemption holders must apply for a Wyoming license, and submit their payment, no later than March 14, 2022 (the day the PHE declaration expires).

Please the licensing staff for any questions about these deadlines and the reduced license application fees.

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**2022 PAC
Contributions**

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Governor Gordon Appoints Stefan Johansson as Wyoming Department of Health Director

Governor Mark Gordon has appointed Stefan Johansson as director of the Wyoming Department of Health (WDH). Johansson had served as interim director since May 2021.

According to the release from the governor's office Monday, Johansson joined WDH in 2013 and has also served as policy administrator and deputy director. The release said this experience and Johansson's advanced education in political economy and public policy make him well suited for the job.

"Stefan has provided steady, stable leadership for the Department of Health during unprecedented times," Gordon said. "His experience and mettle are valuable assets for our state. We have a lot to do and I look forward to our work together."

Johansson said he is grateful for the opportunity to continue serving the residents of Wyoming. "Programs and services delivered by the Wyoming Department of Health affect every resident of the state," Johansson said. "We have an incredible staff — both in Cheyenne and in our facilities and field offices throughout the state — who show the utmost dedication to Wyoming every single day."

SMH Receives WBCI Award



The Sheridan Memorial Hospital Foundation is proud to announce it has been chosen as a recipient of a 2022 Wyoming Breast Cancer Initiative (WBCI) Community Grant to

provide vital services to the Sheridan community through Sheridan Memorial Hospital's Welch Cancer Center (WCC).

The grant was written and approved to provide patient navigation services throughout diagnosis, treatment and survivorship, personalized essential care for breast cancer patients, and dedicated funds for the WCC's Breast Boutique. The boutique is an experience complete with compassionate highly trained staff who provide post breast cancer care options including post-op camisoles, breast prosthesis, and bra fittings in a comfortable, private setting. All of the services in the boutique are free of charge.

According to Foundation Director of Donor Relations, Ada Kirven, "We are extremely grateful to receive this successful grant notification. The additional funding plays a major role in allowing the WCC to grow and expand the reach for early breast cancer detection and treatment for better patient outcomes. We want to encourage screening and then work to change the Wyoming breast cancer statistics. Our patients and their families are appreciative to have personalized, exceptional breast cancer care close to home and in a comfortable, safe environment with providers they trust at the WCC."

CRMC Pediatric Code Carts

Cheyenne Regional Medical Center (CRMC) had the opportunity to make some vital improvements to their pediatric code carts.

"During our audits, and also while receiving feedback from staff, we realized that it had been quite a while since our pediatric code carts had been updated and we really just wanted to make them as user-friendly as possible so that people had what they needed during a code situation," said Clinical Nursing Educator, Brittany LaFountaine.

CRMC purchased 8 new carts with a grant from the CRMC Foundation.

The priority for the new carts was to increase efficiency, while decreasing waste. Personnel were educated on the new code carts through mock codes, an interactive training program and simulations.

The training allowed medical staff to familiarize themselves with the new carts in order to prepare for critical scenarios.

"Normally, if you need something, you go to your supply room, you get it and bring it back to your patient, but in a code, it is really important we have all those supplies right there in that moment and we also want to make sure we have exactly the supplies that we need so we are not having to run around all over to get things," said LaFountaine.

