

OFFICE OF THE GOVERNOR
STATE OF MONTANA

Steve Bullock
GOVERNOR



Mike Cooney
LT. GOVERNOR

Dear Health Care Provider:

First, thank you for all your dedication and work to combat COVID-19. As Montanans, we have done a great job to suppress this virus, but now we move on to the next phase. As we reopen Montana, we cannot let down our guard. Reminding our communities of what they can do to keep their neighbors, co-workers, family, and themselves healthy is still very important. It has become second nature to us all to remind our patients to:

- 1) Staying home if you are sick and avoiding those individuals who are sick
- 2) Social distance whenever possible
- 3) Washing your hands often
- 4) Covering your mouth and nose with a cloth face cover when around others
- 5) Cover coughs and sneezes
- 6) Clean and disinfect frequently touched surfaces often.

We will need more than the nonpharmaceutical interventions above to keep the virus contained. As Montana continues to open and move into the new normal, clinical medicine in partnership with public health will need to catch new viral infections early. We want to make sure new COVID-19 patients are isolated, and through contract tracing, close contacts are quarantined as quickly as possible.

Testing will be a crucial component to the early detection of novel coronavirus spreading in our communities. Montana has a good supply of testing kits and supplies. If any patient comes to your office with symptoms of COVID-19, please continue to test.

We are also now asking for healthcare providers to be part of a sentinel surveillance team to test asymptomatic individuals within your practice. For those providers interested in becoming a sentinel surveillance provider, we are asking that you or your office manager contact DPHHS Public Health and Safety Division's Communicable Disease Section at 406-444-0273.

All sentinel providers will be supplied with free test kits, PPE, etc. Processing of all COVID-19 tests through this program will be free of charge to the clinical/hospital/emergency department. Participating providers can also use these testing materials to screen their staff, and this testing will also be run free of charge. Our epidemiologist will help your team develop a surveillance protocol that works best with the flow at your specific practice.

Once again, thank you for all you are doing for your patients and the citizens of Montana. Once again, if you are interested in this program, please call 406-444-0273. Clinics/hospitals/emergency departments will be selected as supplies last.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Steve Bullock".

STEVE BULLOCK
Governor