Yellowstone County COVID-19
Unified Command

Mobile Testing Unit
Long-term Care & Congregate Living Situation

- A COVID-19 mobile testing unit can take test samples from residents in long-term care facilities, including skilled nursing facilities and assisted living facilities, in Yellowstone County. The mobile testing van is also prepared to take test samples at congregate living spaces, such as the Yellowstone County Detention Facility, or group homes.

- Yellowstone County has more than 1,000 older adults living in long-term care facilities. These congregate living facilities care for many individuals whose age and chronic medical conditions place them at the highest risk for COVID-19.

- There are seven nursing homes and 15 or more assisted living facilities in Yellowstone County. These facilities need to rapidly test residents who show symptoms for COVID-19 to manage isolation while preserving limited supplies of personal protective equipment (PPEs).

- Residents in long-term care facilities often have underlying medical conditions that make it difficult to transport them off-site and may require an ambulance service.

- The mobile testing van helps keep ill residents away from hospital emergency departments, unless the resident is in need of emergency medical care.

- Mobile testing started March 31, 2020. The daily schedule, which includes weekends, is determined by 8:30 a.m., based on calls from long-term care facilities in Yellowstone County.

- RiverStone Health owns the mobile testing van and it is staffed with trained individuals from St. Vincent Healthcare, Billings Clinic, and RiverStone Health.

- Like other individuals in Yellowstone County, long-term care residents and others in congregate living situations will need a physician order for testing.

- Test samples will be delivered to the Montana Public Health Laboratory via the state courier service. These testing samples will receive the highest priority.

- Test results will be reported to primary care providers and public health. A public health team member will contact the facility to follow-up on all positive tests.