

RiverStone Health Connections



As we begin a new year, we're reminded of the vital role our shared work plays in the health of our community.

Every day, our partners, patients and team members come together with the common purpose of supporting well-being, building trust and making a meaningful difference in people's lives.

At RiverStone Health, we're grateful for the collaboration and dedication that bring light to this season and strengthen our community during this busy and important time of year.

RiverStone Health Service Spotlight: Environmental Health Services

As the Yellowstone City-County Health Department, we lead Public Health efforts in keeping food and water safe through education, inspections and permits through our Environmental Health Services team.

We provide hundreds of inspections in a variety of programs including:

- Retail food, mobile food trucks and food manufacturing
- Body artists and establishments
- Swimming pools and spas
- Septic systems and subdivision restrictions
- Trailer courts and campgrounds
- Day cares and group homes
- Air quality and
- ...don't forget all those hundreds of complaint investigations associated with each program! To learn more about inspections or complaint investigations click the button below to visit our website.

[Click to learn more](#)

A special thank you and congratulations to Danny Hawbaker and Nikki Peterson for their promotions to leadership and management positions. Well done!

After completing a year-long study of local licensed food businesses, RiverStone Health's Environmental Health Services team learned more about the most common food safety risks. The team identified which risks happen most often and found ways to help reduce them. They also looked at changes over time to see if food safety is improving.

Based on what the team learned, several new steps are being put in place. These include creating a Food Safety Pocket Guide to share with food businesses, bringing back **in-person food safety trainings** to the same level as before COVID, and creating a checklist to help businesses properly maintain and test their sanitizer machines.

As we wrap up another successful year meeting our goal and fulfilling our agreement with the State Department of Public Health and Human Services, we want to share many thanks to all our environmental health sanitarians and admin staff for another year of keeping our community safe.

The next time you're sitting down to dinner at your local pub OR making good on that promise to get those matching tattoos...give a nod to RiverStone Health's Environmental Health Services staff for seeing that you have a safe/healthy environment to do so.

As part of routine inspections, food establishments must follow the Montana Food Code, including requirements related to the sale of kratom, which is an unregulated substance. As the local health department, RiverStone Health is responsible for protecting the safety of Yellowstone County's food and water supply.

Beginning this year, Environmental Health Services has included kratom checks as part of food establishment inspections. To learn more about kratom

or to participate in our community-wide, anonymous survey, please click the appropriate button below.

[Click to learn more](#)

[Take our survey](#)

RiverStone Health Hospice offers grief support.

Grief is a natural reaction to loss, but each of us experiences it differently. RiverStone Health's Hospice team offers continued support and resources from across the community. To learn more about grief resources or to take our survey to help us understand the types of grief support groups needed in our community click the appropriate buttons. All responses are confidential and your input is highly valued.

[Grief resources](#)

[Grief support survey](#)

Partner Spotlight: HomeFront



HomeFront communities are located across Billings, including the heights, south side, central and west end. Each community has a unique personality and accompanying amenities, and HomeFront offers a range of housing including duplexes, fourplexes, townhomes and apartments. Also, with a variety of programs. Public Housing Seven apartment complexes Four single family sites made up of townhouses, duplexes, tri-plexes, four-plexes and tenplexes.

Clients pay either a flat rent or income-based rent based on 30% of adjusted gross income. Section 8 is the voucher-based program where clients receive a voucher of an allotted amount based on family size and income. After a year in good standing with the Section 8 program.

The VASH program Veterans Affairs Supportive Housing for veterans can be accessed through the VA Veterans Affairs, that works in conjunction with the HomeFront office. This gives a veteran a voucher to find a place of their choice to live. Supported with case management resources.

Clients are also invited to join the FSS program. That is the Family Self- Sufficiency Program, which is a five-year program designed to help low-income families achieve financial self- sufficiency and to be free of public assistance.

Participants establish goals with assistance of the FSS Coordinator and then work to accomplish those goals within five-year time frame. The ultimate goal for participants is suitable employment. As the FSS family begins to increase their earned income, the Housing Assistance payment (HAP) paid on their behalf decreases. A portion of the difference is put into an escrow account.

When the family achieves the goals, they set in the contract, on or before the five years. The money in the escrow is given to the family. The money is free and clear. It may be used for whatever the family chooses. Often times family will use these funds as down payment to purchase a home using the HCV Homeownership Program.

For more information about HomeFront, please click the button below or call [406.245.6391](tel:406.245.6391).

[Visit their website](#)

At RiverStone Health, you are at the center of everything we do with a focus on improving life, health and safety of our community. Serving the Yellowstone County community and south-central Montana for 50 years, we are an essential provider of personal and public health services. Health, Education, Leadership and Protection – HELP is what we do.

We offer medical, dental and behavioral health; home health and hospice; public health services like immunizations, WIC, health promotion and restaurant inspections; and

educate the next generation of health professionals. Our expertise spans all ages and stages of life.

If you would like to be a future partner spotlight, or learn more about RiverStone Health's work in the community please reach out to our Communications team at Communications@RiverStoneHealth.org or 406.247.3387.



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