



February 2024

Changes to SNF and ALF COVID Testing

The Wyoming Department of Health (WDH) sincerely appreciates your leadership and partnership throughout the COVID-19 pandemic.

This is to inform you that WDH will discontinue offering COVID-19 testing services to Skilled Nursing and Assisted Living Facilities through National Jewish Health as of July 31, 2024.

Once testing through National Jewish Health ends, WDH will offer COVID-19 testing to Skilled Nursing and Assisted Living Facilities through the Wyoming Public Health Laboratory (WPHL). Testing for COVID-19 will also include simultaneous testing for Influenza A and Influenza B. WPHL can accept upper respiratory specimens from nasopharyngeal swabs, oropharyngeal swabs, and nasal swabs. For facilities choosing to use WPHL services, a healthcare provider with test ordering authority (MD, DO, APRN, PA) must order the test through WPHL's laboratory web portal. WPHL can accept specimens from patients suspected of respiratory viral infection consistent with COVID-19. WPHL will also continue to provide specimen collection and shipping supplies. Testing through WPHL is optional for facilities. Like National Jewish Health, WPHL provides laboratory-based testing, meaning specimens will need to be shipped to WPHL for testing to be completed. Testing at WPHL will be provided at no cost to facilities.

As of July 31, 2024, WDH will also no longer provide rapid COVID-19 tests to facilities; facilities will at that time be responsible for procuring their own rapid COVID-19 tests.

WDH will be in touch throughout the upcoming months about this transition and will provide details on how facilities can obtain testing through WPHL. In the meantime, please fill out this brief survey to indicate your facility's interest in obtaining COVID-19 testing through WPHL: <https://redcap.link/WYfacilitytesting>. This survey is non-binding and is only for planning purposes.

WDH looks forward to continuing to partner in infection control efforts. Questions can be sent to Alexia Harrist 307-777-7716 or alexia.harristl@wyo.gov.



WDT ON DEMAND!

Recorded presentations available for viewing!

Topics include:

- **NEW** Tackling the Ethical Considerations of Dementia
- **NEW** Navigating a Dementia Diagnosis
- Caregiver Self Care - Nutrition and Physical Activity
- Mental Wellbeing for Caregivers
- and more!



Wyoming Center
on Aging

To register for WDT:
wycos@uwyo.edu
(307) 766-2829



New on the Hub: Embracing Flexible Scheduling Models for Staff

As the workforce crisis in the aging services sector persists, many providers are implementing flexible scheduling models for staff to attract more applicants, prevent burnout, and help staff find better work-life balance. [See how other organizations are embracing flexible schedules for staff](#)—and download sample policies to make your own—in a new Learning Hub resource.

UW ECHO in Geriatrics General Information



Project ECHO is a virtual model for lifelong medical learning and collaborative practice that links front-line healthcare providers with specialist care teams to manage patients who have chronic conditions requiring complex care.

Through the UW ECHO in Geriatrics, sponsored by the Wyoming Center on Aging and the Montana Geriatric Education Center, healthcare professionals throughout the region have the opportunity to receive best-practice recommendations for consideration in management of older adults. You are invited to present challenging cases for discussion and feedback to a network of colleagues as well as a specialist care team. Each ECHO session will also feature a brief community discussion on a variety of important topics related to geriatrics.

Continuing Education

All participants are asked to complete an evaluation for each session. Completed evaluation required for CE/CMEs. Continuing education CE/CMEs hours will be available for interdisciplinary healthcare providers including pharmacy, nursing, social work, psychology, and other healthcare professionals and social service providers and students for the sessions they attend.



Objectives: At the conclusion of this activity, learners will: develop a network of geriatric care practitioners; create hubs of geriatric expertise in the Rocky Mountain Region; implement best practices for geriatric patients; identify strategies to assess and address the 4Ms (What Matters, Mentation, Mobility, Medication) of geriatric healthcare.

This activity has been granted and implemented in accordance with the accreditation requirements and policies of the accreditation agency for continuing medical education. This activity was developed by the University of Wyoming Center on Aging and the Montana Geriatric Education Center. The University of Wyoming Center on Aging and the Montana Geriatric Education Center are approved providers of continuing medical education for physicians. The Wyoming Regional Medical Center designates this presentation for a maximum of 1.00 AMA PRA Category 1 Credits™. Physicians should claim only the credit that commensurate with the extent of their participation. Learning Contact Hours will be awarded upon attendance at the entire activity and completion of an evaluation. This activity is approved by the University of Wyoming, the Montana Board of Professional Medical Services, the Wyoming Board of Nursing, the Wyoming Board of Social Work, the Wyoming Board of Psychology, the Wyoming Board of Occupational Therapy, the Wyoming Board of Speech-Language Pathology, and the Wyoming Board of Dietetics. The University of Wyoming Center on Aging and the Montana Geriatric Education Center can provide a Certificate of Completion to all other disciplines.



Case Consultation, Networking, and CE/CMEs

PROFESSIONAL CONTINUING EDUCATION CREDITS ARE AVAILABLE
Free Participation. Students are welcome!



A geriatric care community of practice including a bi-weekly case conference plus educational presentation



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Join the network Feb - June 2024
Primary Care Geriatrics –
Expanding Our Toolbox



Westview Health Care Center

Chip and Tootsie Roll Come to Wish Residents a Happy Valentine's Day!



Chip and Tootsie Roll went from room to room throughout the facility to greet and love on every resident!

The joy was unmistakable!



Our Residents were visited by Cupid as well!

Each resident received a beautiful Valentine Balloon



*Save
the
Date*

May 7-8, 2024

Spring Meeting
Holiday Inn
Cody, Wyoming

August 26, 2024

Golf Tournament
Three Crowns Golf Club
Casper, Wyoming

August 27-28, 2024

Annual Meeting
Best Western Downtown Casper
Casper, Wyoming



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