



October 30, 2020

### **Fall Update from Ferry County Health**

Happy Fall Ferry County! Here's what's going on at your hospital district...

This year we decided to try a drive up flu shots which turned out to be a huge hit! The drive up flu clinic will definitely be repeated again next year and perhaps in the near future. On our first day we served a clinic record of 170 patients; well over half of all of 2019's totals in just a few hours! Even with additional shots ordered this year, it appears we will soon run out and are currently scouring all of our sources to find additional supplies (the pandemic continues to challenge our suppliers in many ways). Stay tuned for additional announcements on flu shot availability. Our record drive up day gave us a chance to practice and prepare for possible distribution of a COVID-19 in the not too distant future (we are currently working with the Tri county Health District and the State to prepare). I'm extremely proud of our staff's ability to think quickly and make proper adjustments which made the day a success.

Many of you no doubt have noticed some digging and placement of "small homes" up by Klondike Hills Assisted Living (ALF). We have two projects going on up there. The first is a long overdue drainage fix to move storm water around the ALF and Clinic. Over the year's our building has had noticeable settling issues, water infiltration into the clinic, and water build up in the elevator shaft at times. Last year we made fixes to our gutter downspouts by redirecting roof run off into our retention pond rather than just allowing the water to settle in against our foundation which had an immediate positive impact. This next phase will hopefully take the majority of our spring melt and move it safely around the building without continued damage to our facility.

The second project is what I call our "COVID-19 Village". Using CARES Act funding obtained this spring, we have purchased three small homes for the immediate use as a winter COVID drive up station and a future vaccine distribution area. Long term, we will use the homes for emergency room doctor housing and other employee housing challenges. Alongside our three homes we are also building a travel trailer/RV pad which will have power, sewer, and water (during warmer weather), first for short term use for patients and their families and next to address short term employee housing issues. Stay tuned for more information on move up into the homes for COVID testing soon! If you would like to see updated videos and pictures of the project they can be found by visiting <https://photos.app.goo.gl/izAbJf7xSqTaC78M7>.

In order to use our CARES Act money the project must address issues created by the current pandemic. Beyond that, our desire is to make sure the projects create a long term benefit long past the current COVID-19 situation. A few other areas we are spending/or planning to spend our funds on (total funds received = \$3.8M):

- New laptops to help with tele commuting/zoom meetings
- Wi-Fi infrastructure for telehealth, etc.
- Digital X-ray upgrade
- HVAC fixes/upgrades to room pressure control for better infection control
- Spring 2020 initial financial losses due to the temporary "non-essential" healthcare shut down
- Lunchroom expansion for greater social distancing (future use for a large meeting room)
- Storage room expansion (short term use as a COVID testing station)

*Superintendent & CEO*

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## Ferry County Health

- New hallway doors to replace temporary doors used to protect long term care (nursing home) patients

Financially the District continues to grow stronger. Though September our operating income was a little over \$1M. This past month we resumed our plan of debt repayment with a goal of paying off the ALF/Clinic building by 2024 with a \$100K debt payment made to the USDA. We continue to make progress toward the purchase of Republic Drug, hoping to complete the sale in January of 2021.

As always we appreciate you trusting us with your care! Stay tuned for additional flu shot opportunities.

Kind Regards,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, consisting of several loops and a long horizontal stroke, positioned below the text 'Kind Regards,'.

Aaron Edwards, MHPA  
CEO and Superintendent, Ferry County

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