



321 Madison Street  
P.O. Box 336  
Sheridan, MT 59749  
Phone: (406) 842-5453  
Fax: (406) 842-5455  
[www.RVMC.org](http://www.RVMC.org)

Media Contact:  
Debra McNeill  
406-596-0002  
[rvmc406@gmail.com](mailto:rvmc406@gmail.com)

**Don't Postpone Your Medical Needs Due to Covid-19**  
FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Sheridan, Montana (March 31, 2020) – The Ruby Valley Medical Center urges patients who have chronic issues such as asthma, heart disease, diabetes, hypertension and other health concerns to continue to see their healthcare providers. These conditions require ongoing evaluation to provide optimum healthcare outcomes.

During the Covid-19 pandemic, it is more important than ever to pay attention to our existing health conditions, take all prescribed medications and see our primary care providers regularly. Patients whose medical issues are not well controlled are at the highest risk of contracting the coronavirus and will be most adversely affected by Covid-19. Social distancing does not mean that non-Covid health concerns have taken a vacation or have stabilized. Periodic evaluation is absolutely necessary, especially under these circumstances.

Ruby Valley Medical Center has designated the Twin Bridges clinic with Dr. Molly Biehl as a primary facility for patients seeking healthcare with non-respiratory issues. However, patients can make an appointment to see whichever healthcare provider they prefer. "We're trying to keep the non-sick people in Twin Bridges. However you can see your regular provider wherever they are available," said Dr. Roman Hendrickson, Medical Director for Ruby Valley Medical Center. "If you think you are sick, please call ahead so we can see you in the most appropriate setting, which may include your car or an isolation room."

*Exceptional People, Exceptional Care*

Ruby Valley Medical Center can arrange for healthcare visits from home via tele-medicine employing your smart phone or home computer. Certain evaluations will require a visit to Ruby Valley Medical Center or the Twin Bridges clinic for blood pressure or other tests. However, for some health conditions, tele-medicine may be a good option for meeting with your primary care provider. Please call (406) 842-5453 if you are interested in discussing how to set up a tele-medicine appointment.

Dr. Hendrickson and the healthcare providers at Ruby Valley Medical Center are concerned that with the focus on Covid-19, patients may not realize that their chronic healthcare conditions require attention. "That's why we need to see these patients periodically. We discover problems before the patient knows that they have them," said Hendrickson.

If you have a chronic healthcare condition and haven't seen your healthcare provider recently, or you would like to discuss tele-medicine options, please call the Ruby Valley Medical Center at (406) 842-5453 for an appointment or consultation.

Ruby Valley Medical Center is actively evaluating their procedures to ensure that our community stays healthy and receives excellent healthcare. Please visit our Facebook page and website ([www.RVMC.org](http://www.RVMC.org)) for news of any changes to procedures or updates related to the coronavirus.

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#### About the Ruby Valley Medical Center

The Ruby Valley Medical Center is a critical access hospital and Montana designated trauma receiving facility serving Sheridan, Twin Bridges, Alder, Laurin, Silver Star, Virginia City, Nevada City and Waterloo. The Medical Center offers five in-patient beds, two observation beds, diagnostic imaging, laboratory, physical therapy, speech language pathology, swing bed, 24 hour emergency care and a highly qualified nursing staff. Our healthcare providers support patients through the Ruby Valley Medical Center and the clinics in Sheridan and Twin

Bridges. Our clinics offer a wide range of healthcare services including pediatrics, well-woman exams, sports physicals, geriatrics, mental health, osteopathic care, chiropractic care, treatment for chronic pain and tele-medicine to off-site specialists. Our visiting specialists provide podiatric, gynecological, surgical, and hearing services. The Ruby Valley Medical Center also provides mobile emergency medical services through Ruby Valley Emergency Medical Services. The Ruby Valley Medical Center receives financial support from the Ruby Valley Healthcare Foundation and the Ruby Valley Medical Center Auxiliary.

Attached photos: Covid19Precautions1.jpg

Caption: RVEMS staff, Kali Currier screens everyone before they enter Ruby Valley Medical Center.

