

**April 2020**

**A statement from Indian Health Services, Wind River Service Unit, Fort Washakie Health Center**

Despite the changes in our clinic operations in response to the COVID-19 pandemic we are still committed to our core mission of raising the physical, mental, social and spiritual health of American Indians and Alaska Natives to the highest level.

Everything we are doing is to promote the best possible safety and health of the communities here on the Wind River Indian Reservation. In order to maximize our ability to care for ill patients we recently changed our hours of operation. **We are currently open from 8 am to 4:30 pm.**

- If you are experiencing a fever, cough, or shortness of breath, call 307-332-7300 for instructions or to talk to one of our medical providers.
- Access for all patients is currently limited to the Front Entrance. You can expect to be met by employees wearing masks, have your temperature checked and answer some questions regarding symptoms. We have developed different pathways for different levels of need to keep everyone as safe as possible and minimize contact between patients.
- If you have routine appointments or need medication refills, you may be able to do a phone visit. Please call the clinic to discuss this with your primary care provider. They will assist you in getting the care you need depending on your individual situation.
- If you need medication refills, call 307-335-5983. If you would like to talk to your primary care provider call 307-332-7300, leave a message and they will call you back.

Please follow us for important updates on clinic operations and for further information on keeping yourself and your families as healthy and safe as possible during this time.

**Local COVID-19 cases**

As many in the community are already aware, we have identified Indian Health Service patients from Fremont County, Wyoming, that have tested positive for COVID-19. IHS is working closely with the County to identify anyone else in the community who has been in close contact with the patient and may need to be tested.

At this time, there is no need for members of the community who have not been in close contact with the patient and are not showing symptoms to seek testing. The IHS will continue to keep our tribal partners informed as the situation develops. For more information on COVID-19 and how to prevent illness, please visit <https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/index.html>.

### **Pediatric Guidelines during COVID-19**

As our clinic responds to the unique challenges of the COVID-19 pandemic it is still important to make sure we are taking care of the most vulnerable members of our community. Infants and younger children, especially those up to the age of 4, are still at risk for exposure to and illness from many vaccine preventable diseases.

Using CDC guidelines, we have been adjusting patient flow through the clinic to improve our ability to provide care while minimizing potential exposure to illness, especially the COVID-19 virus. We have designated a separate building for our pediatricians to do these visits in to provide the safest possible experience for these and other vulnerable patients.

Please call 307-332-7300 to schedule your children for routine well-child checks; to ask about your child's immunization status; or to visit with our pediatricians, Dr. Nelson and Dr. Mook, about what would be best for your children.

Thank you.