

News Release

For immediate release
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Multiple COVID-19 cases at Columbus assisted living facility

COLUMBUS, MT – Montana public health officials have confirmed there are active cases within Caslen Living Centers, Inc., the Meadowlark assisted living facility in Columbus, Montana. Cases have been confirmed in both residents and employees.

Positive cases were first confirmed on Wednesday, September 23. Those testing positive include a total of 10 individuals, both employees and residents combined. Three residents have been hospitalized.

“Maintaining the health and safety of vulnerable population, as well as our community has been our highest priority,” said Dr. Cody White, Public Health Officer for Stillwater County. “The Caslen Living Centers Meadowlark facility is one of several assisted living residences in the state reporting illness in residents and/or employees.”

Per quarantine and contact tracing protocols, Caslen Living Centers Meadowlark facility is not allowing visitors.

Stillwater County public health reports that all residents and workers have been notified of test results.

Caslen Living Centers Meadowlark facility is licensed by the Montana Department of Public Health and Human Services as an assisted living facility. The state requires assisted living facilities to isolate residents who have tested positive and to quarantine residents who have been exposed to the virus, even if they have tested negative.

People of any age can contract COVID-19 and may become seriously ill, although most people have mild symptoms and recover. Eight out of 10 deaths from COVID-19 in the United States have been among people age 65 and older, according to the CDC.

Stillwater County has 31 active COVID-19 infections, bringing county total to 76 confirmed cases. The county still holds with 2 COVID-19 deaths.

The Stillwater community is asked to continue following guidelines to prevent further spread and protect vulnerable citizens including:

- Where a mask in public places and when physical distancing is not possible.
- Wash hands often with soap and water or use alcohol-based hand sanitizer.
- Social distance whenever possible.
- Stay home if you're sick.

Any questions or concerns regarding Covid-19 can be directed to our public health hotline at 322-1070.

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