

# Covid Panel Rules

As adopted on January 8, 2021 with  
Amendments adopted on  
January 14, 2021

## **Mitigation Measures**

1) Upon entry to the Capitol building, temperature checks will be provided and are highly encouraged.

2) While inside the Capitol building, face masks are highly recommended for all legislators, staff, family and visitors.

3) Legislators agree that, while they are inside a legislative staff work area to wear a face coverings for the health and safety of staff. These areas are the Legislative Audit Division, Legislative Services Division, and Legislative Fiscal Division on the first floor of the Capitol. You may also electronic communication to meet.

4) Snacks may be made available if they are individually wrapped and not shared.

## **Testing and Diagnosis**

5) If experiencing symptoms of Covid-19 and you are waiting to be tested or waiting for test results, participation from a remote location will be made available via Zoom. Members are encouraged to download remote voting apps in the event they are quarantined. Members attending remotely have the same privileges and abilities as those attending in person.

6.) Testing is available to all legislators and staff at Care Here MT State Employee Center located at 405 Saddle Dr, Helena, MT 59601. You can contact their office at (406) 502-1356, Ext. 136.

7) If a legislator tests positive with Covid-19, please notify the legislative contact tracer and your local health department, as appropriate, so they can begin their contract tracing.

8.) If a legislator tests positive with Covid-19, you are expected to notify leadership *immediately*. You will be provided the opportunity to vote remotely.

### **Remote Participation by Zoom**

9) No one is required to be in the building to participate in the legislative process.

10) If members of the public would like to participate in a particular hearing via Zoom, they *must* register at <https://leg.mt.gov/public-testimony/> before noon the day prior to the hearing to sign up in order to testify.

11) If members of the public would like to participate in a particular hearing in person they are *encouraged* to register at [leg.mt.gov](https://leg.mt.gov) before noon the day prior to the hearing to notify the chair of the committee of their participation so the chair can make proper arrangements to accommodate the number of persons involved.

12) If voting by proxy, legislators may confirm either by email or with a hard copy.

13) For any bill, the sponsor may identify up to five proponents to be called upon.

### **Vaccinations**

Please note according to the Montana Covid-19 Vaccine plan, vaccine distribution is occurring in phases beginning with Phase 1a that targets health care workers, as well as staff and residents of long-term care facilities. Phase 1a also includes healthcare workers with direct patient contact, such as dentists, orthodontists, physical therapists, optometrists, home health workers and others that fit the criteria. This will be followed by Phase 1b which includes those age 70 years and older, persons aged 16-69 with high risk medical conditions and American Indians and other people of color who may be at elevated risk for COVID-19 complications. For more information on Montana's Covid-19 Vaccine plan please visit [dpphs.mt.gov](https://dpphs.mt.gov)

## **APPENDIX**

### **COVID-19 SYMPTOMS**

People with COVID-19 have had a wide range of symptoms reported – ranging from mild symptoms to severe illness. Symptoms may appear 2-14 days after exposure to the virus. People with these symptoms may have COVID-19:

- Fever or chills
- Cough
- Shortness of breath
- Difficulty breathing
- Fatigue
- Muscle or body aches
- Headache
- New loss of taste or smell
- Sore throat
- Congestion or runny nose
- Nausea or vomiting
- Diarrhea

If you are experiencing any of the above symptoms, do not report to work!

Call the CareHere nurse to discuss your symptoms at (406) 502-1356, Ext. 136.

If indicated, the nurse will help arrange for COVID-19 testing to be collected. If indicated, the nurse will help arrange for COVID-19 testing.

### **SYMPTOMATIC TESTING AVAILABILITY**

#### **for all Symptomatic Legislators and Legislative Staff**

For staffing and flow purposes, CareHere would like to propose a set time of day to plan for anyone who needs rapid testing to come to the office in a “group”, rather than pop in and out all day. For people who are unable to come in at that time, we will attempt to refer them for a visit at a specific time with a provider, or if unable to do so, CareHere can offer to order PCR testing through St Peter’s Health.

The legislator or staff would call the triage nurse at CareHere and identify themselves as a legislator or legislative staff to discuss your symptoms: **(406) 502-1356, Ext. 136.**

If indicated, the nurse will help arrange for COVID-19 testing to be collected. The nurse will:

a) offer rapid testing at CareHere from 11:00 a.m. to 12:00 noon, only if you have symptoms of COVID 19.

b) schedule a visit with a provider if that time doesn't work; or

c) provide an order for PCR (not rapid) testing through St. Peter's Health.

For legislators and staff members symptomatic who are part of the state health plan, we are able to offer televisits and onsite testing at times other than 11-12, depending on schedule availability each day. A rapid or PCR test can be arranged during that visit, depending on what is most appropriate.

If you are not a member of the state health plan and who do not have plan benefits and are unable to come to the office between 11 a.m -12 noon, you will be offered an order at St Peter's Health for an appointment to have collected a test upon availability.

(Excerpt from CAREHere brochure)