

Lincoln County
City-County Board of Health Agenda
Lincoln County Courthouse, Libby
6:00 PM, April 20, 2026

- **Call to Order**
 - Pledge of Allegiance
 - Roll Call
- **Administrative Items**
 - *Action Item:* Superfund Focus Area Liaison Appointment
- **Public Comment on Items Not on Agenda**
- **Approval of Minutes**
 - *Action Item:* Approval of 1/13/26 and 3/5/26 Minutes
 - *Action Item:* Approval of Letter re: Eureka BOH Representative
- **Unfinished Business**
 - CARD Update – Tracy McNew, CARD
- **New Business**
 - Update on OU3 – Beth Archer, EPA
 - Kratom Discussion – Brandon Holzer, LCSO
 - *Action Item:* Approval of updated All Hazard Laboratory Specimen Transport Plan
 - Vaccine Letter Discussion
- **Program Reports:**
 - Lincoln County Kids
 - Public Health
 - Behavioral Health
 - Environmental Health
 - New Animal Shelter Manager – Tammy Brown
 - William G Walter Outstanding Sanitarian Award – Robin Blumberg
 - Solid Waste and Recycling
- **Update from Superfund Focus Area Liaisons**
- **Public Comment**
- **General Comments from Board Members**
- **Adjourn**

ZOOM Login – Meeting ID: 5451478326 / Password: 59923

MISSION STATEMENT

The City-County Board of Health for Lincoln County works to prevent disease and illness, ensures a healthy environment and promotes healthy choices by setting county-wide policies to protect the health of Lincoln County residents.

PUBLIC COMMENT

The Board encourages public comment and time is designated for public comment on every agenda. Public comment on non-action agenda items and non-agenda items is welcomed during the general public comment period. Action items will include public comment as follows:

- Presentation of the action item
- Board motion and second
- Board discussion
- **Public comment**
- Additional Board discussion
- Board vote

GROUND RULES

1. Plan comments to be concise, relevant, and meaningful.
2. Keep questions and comments respectful in content and tone.
3. Submit lengthy, detailed comments or supporting documentation in writing
4. Address the problem not the person.
5. Be prepared by reviewing the agenda and pertinent information.
6. Listen with an open mind.
7. Focus on the mission statement.
8. Encourage participation of all board members and attendees.
9. Public participation according to Operating Procedure #2:
 - Participants will address the Board at the time designated in the agenda or as directed by the Board, by presenting before the Board and stating their name audibly.
 - Persons wishing to speak, including Board members, shall first be recognized by the Chair. One speaker shall be given the floor at a time and may not re-enter the discussion without being given recognition by the Chair.
 - Verbal comments will be limited to 3 minutes per individual or as time permits.
10. Participants ask the chair for permission to speak. Participants are to give their full name and topic.
11. Questions or remarks shall be addressed to the board as a body and not to any member of the board or staff without permission from the chair.
12. If a remark has been made, the attendee can agree with what was previously stated. Repetition is unnecessary.

Everyone is responsible for enforcing ground rules.

Lincoln County
City-County Board of Health Minutes
Lincoln County Courthouse, Libby
6:00 PM, January 13, 2026

- **Call to Order**
 - Pledge of Allegiance
 - Roll Call
 - Jim Hammons, Jan Ivers, Kristin Smith, Jim Seifert were all present to meet quorum. The public attending in person was Alissa Fifield, Trista Gilmore, Kathi Hooper, Robin Blumberg, Sarah Long, Noel Duram and Ben and Mitzi Barks. Danielle Faris and Ray Stout attended on Zoom.
- **Administrative Items**
 - Board appointment – Patty Kincheloe reappointed for three-year term
 - *Action Item:* Election of officers
 - Jim Seifert nominated to retain the officers as is with Kristin Smith as Vice Chair, Jim Seifert as Secretary and Amy Fantozzi as Chair. Jim Hammons seconded. All in favor. Motion passed.
- **Public Comment on Items Not on Agenda**
 - Ben Barks gave his opinion on the change to the Lincoln County regulations regarding boarding facilities.
- **Approval of Minutes**
 - *Action Item:* Approval of 10/14/25 Minutes
 - Jim Hammons motioned to approve the 10/14/2025 minutes. Jan seconded. All in favor. Motion passed.
- **Unfinished Business**
 - Behavioral Health Program Update
 - Kathi announced the hiring of Kelcy Meyer as the Behavioral Health Program Manager.
- **New Business**
 - Flood/Wind Disaster Response
 - Kathi gave an update on the current status of the flood and wind disaster that took place during December of 2025 in South Lincoln County.
- **Program Reports:**
 - Lincoln County Kids
 - Alissa announced the rebranding of Zero to Five. It is now called Lincoln County Kids and will be able to serve ages zero to eighteen.

- **Public Health**
 - Sarah Long gave an update on Public Health accomplishments in 2025. Trista Gilmore was able to complete 686 vaccinations for the year and gave an overview of other immunization numbers.
- **Environmental Health**
 - Robin Blumberg gave a review of septic permit numbers for 2025. He highlighted that the online septic permit website is now live on the Health Department website and available for public use. Among other accomplishments for Environmental Health, the department took over the county animal shelter and staff have been working diligently to make that a smooth transition.
- **Solid Waste and Recycling**
 - Kathi said the landfill expansion is complete. She said there has been a huge influx in visitors to the landfills due to the reduction in remote sites.
- **Update from Superfund Focus Area Liaisons**
 - Jan said they are working with George Jamison to form a Libby Asbestos work group to involve a lot of diverse people and professions.
- **Public Comment**
 - None at this time.
- **General Comments from Board Members**
 - Jim Seifert asked to discuss his letter related to immunizations, but the board said that it would need to be on the agenda. The board collectively decided to schedule a meeting in February to discuss this matter.
- **Adjourn**
 - Meeting adjourned at 7:05 pm.

Lincoln County
City-County Board of Health Minutes
Lincoln County Courthouse, Libby
6:00 PM, March 5, 2026

- **Call to Order**
 - Pledge of Allegiance
 - Roll Call
 - Amy Fantozzi, Kristin Smith, Jan Ivers. Jim Seifert attended on Zoom. Quorum present. Attending in person: Zach Sherbo, George Jamison, Mary Lou Goodpaster, Zach McNew, Tracy McNew. Attending on Zoom: Robin Blumberg, Ray Stout.
- **Public Comment on Items Not on Agenda**
 - None
- **Unfinished Business**
 - None
- **New Business**
 - *Action Item* – ATSDR Letter Re: CARD
- **Public Comment**
 - Tracy McNew shares CARD, BOH Update document with board members and talks of the importance of the CARD Clinic not only locally but globally as well. She explains that another executed seizure of CARD assets could potentially result in shutting down operations. Tracy has concern for electronic health record information among many other concerns that are unknown right now.
 - George Jamison shares a letter that he composed that he would like board approval to send to ATSDR and elected officials.
 - Kristin asks whose decision is regarding the potential seizure of assets, and no one is sure. George advises that this is why the letter should go to the various elected officials.
 - Kristin makes a motion to approve the letter and send post haste. Jan seconds. All in favor. Motion carried.
- **General Comments from Board Members**
 - Jim asks about latency and Tracy responds talking of a recent article on Substack by Hayden Blackford that reports expected latency until 2050.
- **Adjourn**
 - Meeting adjourned at 6:30pm

ZOOM Login – Meeting ID: **5451478326** / Password: **59923**

City-County Board of Health for Lincoln County

418 Mineral Ave
Libby, MT 59923



April 20, 2026

Mayor Sonya Richardson
Eureka Town Hall
11 Dewey Avenue
Eureka, MT 59917

RE: BOH Representative

Dear Mayor Richardson,

The current Eureka appointee to the City-County Board of Health for Lincoln County (BOH), appointed February 2025, has not regularly attended BOH meetings. Per the Bylaws of the BOH, “absenteeism is the responsibility of the governing body who appointed that member. Two consecutive absences from regularly scheduled meetings during the year shall cause the appropriate governing body to review the appointment of that member and replace that member when considered appropriate.”

Regular attendance and active participation are essential to ensure informed decision-making and to effectively serve our communities. Please consider appointing a new BOH member to represent the Town of Eureka.

Sincerely,

Amy Fantozzi
Chair



Kratom: A tropical tree native to Southeast Asia. Products are derived from the tree's leaves. Products made from the tree's leaves contain intoxicating chemicals.

How is it used?

- Traditionally used as a multi-purpose remedy to increase alertness and energy.
- Most people report using kratom to self-medicate pain, opioid withdrawal or opioid use disorder, anxiety, or depression, rather than for recreational purposes.

Kratom Health Impacts

Kratom produces stimulant like effects in small doses.



Produces opioid or sedative effects in larger doses.



Potentially addictive.



- Adverse effects include nausea, constipation, dizziness and drowsiness. It can also cause confusion, tremors, seizures, high blood pressure and vomiting.
- Mild to moderate withdrawal symptoms when stopping regular kratom use. There are known overdoses and death related to kratom use.
- Information on health effects is limited; consumers can't make informed decisions.

For information on prevention strategies and treatment options, visit RiverStoneHealth.org/bRIGHTChoices or scan the QR code



 PublicHealth@RiverStoneHealth.org  406.247.3305

Kratom Regulation and Classification

DEA lists kratom as a “drug of concern.”



Kratom is illegal in 6 states, and some municipalities in the U.S. Kratom unregulated in Montana.



There is no FDA approval of kratom as a prescription drug, food additive or dietary supplement

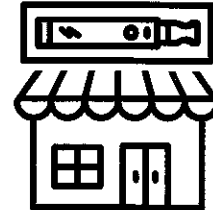


Where is it sold?

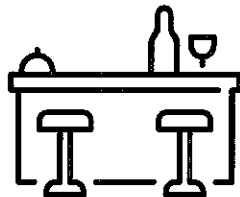
Nutrition Stores



Vape Shops



Kava Bars



Online



What is a kava bar?

- Marketed as sober night-life, alcohol-alternative, booze-free buzz.
- Promoted for health and wellness.
- Kava bars often sell kratom under the guise of “botanical tea”.
- “Kratom is not lawfully marketed in the U.S as a drug product, dietary supplement or a food additive in conventional food.” - FDA 2024
- In 2023, there were more than 280 Kava bars in the U.S. and three in Yellowstone County.
- The number of Kava bars in the US increased 30% from 2012-2017.



Media Information

For immediate release:

December 15, 2025

For more information contact:

Taylor Abrahams

Office: 406.247.3387

Taylor.Abr@RiverStoneHealth.org

RiverStone Health to begin enforcing prohibition on Kratom food and beverage sales in Yellowstone County

Billings, MT – Since 2020, at least 29 individuals in Montana have lost their lives due to kratom overdose. In response to increasing health and safety concerns, RiverStone Health Environmental Health Services will begin enforcement against the sale or serving of food or beverage products containing kratom in licensed retail food establishments within Yellowstone County, effective January 1, 2026.

RiverStone Health, the Yellowstone City-County Health Department, is responsible for enforcing food safety regulations and licensing retail food establishments under contract with the Montana Department of Public Health and Human Services (DPHHS).

Montana's food code requires that all food and beverage ingredients sold in the state are classified by the US Food and Drug Administration (FDA) as safe and suitable for consumption. The FDA has explicitly stated that kratom cannot be legally marketed as a dietary supplement and has not approved it as a food ingredient. Furthermore, the FDA does not differentiate between synthetic 7-OH and natural leaf kratom in its analysis. Since kratom is not an FDA-approved food, beverage, or dietary ingredient, its inclusion in foods and beverages is prohibited from being sold in licensed food establishments.

Kratom is a tropical plant, native to Southeast Asia. Consumption of its leaves may produce stimulant effects at low doses and sedative effects at higher doses, and can result in psychotic symptoms, along with psychological and physiological dependence. The leaves contain two primary active ingredients, mitragynine and 7-hydroxymitragynine (7-OH), both interact with opioid receptors in the brain.

Kratom and its concentrated, synthetic variants are available in various forms, including powders, teas, liquid shots, canned drinks, foods, and pills. While small doses may act as stimulants, larger doses exhibit opioid-like properties with risks of addiction, withdrawal, or overdose.

In July, FDA requested the Drug Enforcement Administration (DEA) to begin classifying highly concentrated, synthetic 7-OH as a Schedule 1 controlled substance, defined as having no accepted

medical use and a high potential for abuse. This category includes substances such as heroin, LSD, and ecstasy. Although federal regulation remains incomplete, the sale and use of kratom and its synthetic derivatives is currently prohibited in seven states, numerous localities across the United States, and 33 countries worldwide.

“As the agency responsible for monitoring the safety of licensed food establishments in Yellowstone County, we are committed to consistent enforcement of Montana’s food safety code while educating businesses and consumers about the risks associated with all unapproved and potentially unsafe food additives,” stated Jon Forte, RiverStone Health CEO and Health Officer.

According to the FDA, kratom use poses significant health risks, including seizures, liver damage, acute toxicity that may result in coma or death, and varying short- and long-term health impacts depending on the product, exposure duration and frequency, concentration, and route of administration. Kratom is not considered safe when used concurrently with most prescription medications.

“We also remain concerned regarding the risks associated with highly concentrated, synthetic 7-OH products, which often have chemical concentrations exceeding those found in the natural plant. Consumers may be unaware of the composition or dosage of these products,” added Forte. Individuals with personal health concerns are advised to consult their physician regarding kratom, particularly when taking prescription medication.

RiverStone Health’s Environmental Health Service commenced outreach to licensed food establishments earlier this year concerning the risks of kratom and the prohibition under the Montana Food Code. Beginning in 2026, any establishments continuing to sell kratom-containing products will be subject to enforcement actions by the health department.

For more information regarding kratom, please visit RiverStoneHealth.org/Kratom or contact RiverStone Health Public Health Services at 406.247.3305.

###



Frequently Asked Questions – Kratom in Retail Food Establishments in Yellowstone County

1. Is RiverStone Health banning kratom everywhere in Yellowstone County?

No, this is not a ban. RiverStone Health is beginning the enforcement of existing regulations, applicable to all Counties in Montana, prohibiting the sale of unapproved dietary ingredients, products or additives in retail food establishments.

2. Why is RiverStone Health only focusing on retail food establishments?

As the Yellowstone City–County Health Department, RiverStone Health is responsible for inspecting and licensing a variety of local businesses of public health concern, including food establishments, body art facilities, hotels, public pools and others. Each business type is regulated under a specific set of environmental health and hygiene standards.

Retail food establishments are required to comply with the Montana Food Code. The sale of kratom products in retail food establishments violates multiple provisions of the Montana Food Code, including:

- Unsafe or unapproved food additives
- Unapproved sources of food products
- Adulterated food products

3. What is considered a retail food establishment?

According to the Montana Food Code, a "Retail food establishment" means an operation, whether mobile or at a temporary or stationary facility or location, that meets one or more of the conditions in subsections (21)(a)(i) and (21)(a)(ii) and that may include a central processing facility that supplies a transportation vehicle or a vending location or satellite feeding location. A retail food establishment:

- (i) stores, processes, packages, serves, or vends food directly to the consumer or otherwise provides food for human consumption at a venue that may include: a) a restaurant; b) a market; c) a satellite or catered feeding location; d) a catering operation if the catering operation provides food directly to a consumer or to a conveyance used to transport people; e) a vending location; f) a conveyance used to transport people; g) an institution; or h) a food bank; and (ii) relinquishes possession of food to a consumer directly or indirectly by using either a delivery service, as is done for grocery or

restaurant orders, or a common carrier that provides deliveries. The term is not dependent on whether consumption is on or off the premises or whether there is a charge for food served to the public.

4. What has changed? Why now?

These are not new regulations. The Montana Food Code, which dictates health inspections in retail food establishments, was adopted in 2015 and applies throughout Montana.

Due to the proliferation of kratom products in Yellowstone County, RiverStone Health began reviewing our statutory responsibilities in regulating these products. Staff consulted with the Board of Health, relevant legal authorities, and the Montana Department of Public Health and Human Services before determining it was necessary to move forward with enforcement of existing laws in 2026.

Throughout this process, environmental health staff have engaged food establishment owners and operators of the food code rules. Further, an August 2025 report issued by the Montana Department of Justice provided mounting evidence of kratom as an emerging public health threat. While nothing has changed in current laws and regulations, we will move forward with uniform enforcement of Montana's food code without regard to any unapproved food ingredients.

5. Is kratom sold in bottles or cans considered a food? Are kratom drinks regulated as food?

Yes, under the Montana Food Code, "food" means an edible substance, beverage, or ingredient used, intended for use or for sale for human consumption. Kratom products sold as drinks, including those packaged in bottles or cans, meet the definition of food and are regulated accordingly.

6. Can I still buy kratom at non-food establishments?

Yes, kratom products may still be available in vape shops and other specialty stores. Montana is working on additional regulations and may move to ban or limit the sale of kratom and/or synthetic 7-OH entirely. Kratom is the subject of a rapidly changing regulatory environment at both the state and federal level.

7. Why is RiverStone Health focusing on all kratom products instead of 7-OH?

At this time, there are no kratom or 7-OH products listed as 'safe' on the US Drug and Food Administration's (USDA) Generally Recognized as Safe (GRAS) list. Only foods and ingredients listed on the GRAS list may be sold in retail food establishments. Instead, the Food

and Drug Administration and USDA have listed kratom as a 'drug and chemical of concern.'

8. What ability does RiverStone Health have to enforce kratom regulations?

RiverStone Health's environmental health team and Health Officer work closely with the County Attorney's Office to enforce violations related to non-compliance or in rare cases, the need to immediately close an establishment due to an imminent health hazard.

Food establishments observed selling kratom during their routine inspection will receive a note on their inspection report and will enter an enforcement process. The establishment will have two opportunities to correct the violation by removing the products from sale. If kratom is still being sold upon the third inspection, the establishment will be referred to the County Attorney's Office and RiverStone Health will notify DPHHS that they are not approved for a retail food license.

9. Are any other Montana communities enforcing these regulations?

Yes, the food code applies throughout the state of Montana. The Blackfeet Nation has taken their concerns a step further to adopt a full ban across tribal lands.

10. Can a business operate without a license?

No, Montana Code Annotated §§ 50-50-201 and 50-57-201 requires all food establishments meeting the definition of a retail, wholesale or temporary food establishment to be properly licensed and/or permitted prior to operation.

11. Where can I learn more about Montana's food code?

To learn more about Montana's rules and regulations regarding retail food establishments, visit:
<https://dphhs.mt.gov/publichealth/EHFS/RetailFood/>



Lincoln County

All-Hazard Laboratory Sample Transport Plan

March 2024

This document contains the plans and protocols regarding the investigation, identification, and containment of illnesses caused by pathogens, radiological hazards, and toxins. This is a hazard-specific annex to the Lincoln County All-Hazards Emergency Operations Plan. Should an actual event occur, the response may vary depending on the type of emergency situation. This plan will be reviewed and updated annually or as necessary by the Health Director, Public Health Emergency Preparedness Coordinator, or designee. This version supersedes all previous versions of this document.

APPROVAL AND IMPLEMENTATION

All-Hazard Laboratory Specimen Transport Plan

This document is hereby approved for implementation and supersedes all previous editions.

Signature Date
Dr. Brad Black, MD, Health Officer

Signature Date
Amy Fantozzi, Board of Health Chair

Signature Date
Kathi Hooper, Health Department Director

Record of Changes

| Date | Revisions Made | Approved by: | Distribution Date |
|---------|--|--------------|-------------------|
| 2016 | Total Rewrite | | |
| 2/2024 | Update Standard/Cat B and Rapid Tox Screen | | |
| 04/2026 | Re-format, simplify. | | |
| | | | |
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Introduction

The Lincoln County Health Department (LCHD) has the ability to coordinate with local and state laboratories on a 24/7 basis. LCHD has a means of coordinating the transportation of routine laboratory and environmental specimens to the MT State laboratory and a safe means of coordinating the transportation of suspected hazardous laboratory and environmental specimens to the MT State Laboratory when a public health emergency is likely.

Purpose

I. PURPOSE

Lincoln County Public Health maintains a comprehensive All Hazards Laboratory Specimen Transport Plan to address foreseeable biological, chemical, radiological, and environmental hazards that may require specimen or sample collection and submission to the Montana Laboratory Services Bureau for testing.

This plan establishes standardized procedures for:

- Identification and notification
- Specimen collection coordination
- Packaging and labeling
- Chain of custody when required
- Secure transport
- Documentation and reporting
- Regulatory compliance
- Interagency coordination

This plan is aligned with the elements outlined in the All Hazard Laboratory Specimen Transport Plan Checklist FY 2025 to 2026.

II. SCOPE

This plan applies to:

- Routine public health specimens
- Category B infectious substances
- Category A infectious substances
- Chemical and biological threat samples
- Drinking water emergency sampling
- Rapid toxic screening clinical specimens
- Environmental samples associated with credible public health threats

III. AUTHORITY

Lincoln County Public Health coordinates specimen transport in accordance with:

- US DOT 49 CFR Parts 171 to 180
- 49 CFR 173.199 for Category B materials
- 49 CFR 172 and 173 for Category A materials
- 49 CFR 172.704 training requirements

- IATA Dangerous Goods Regulations Packaging Instruction 650
- Montana DPHHS guidance
- Montana Laboratory Services Bureau requirements

Failure to comply with federal transport regulations may result in civil penalties.

IV. RESPONSIBILITIES

Lincoln County Public Health

- Coordinate with Montana Laboratory Services Bureau 24 hours per day
- Notify appropriate state and local partners
- Ensure regulatory compliance
- Maintain updated contact lists
- Maintain inventory of CBAT and DWES kits
- Maintain documentation of trained personnel
- Ensure plan review annually

Healthcare Facilities

- Maintain trained Category A shippers
- Ensure proper packaging materials are available
- Notify LCHD of suspect or confirmed threats

Law Enforcement and Emergency Management

- Maintain scene security
- Preserve evidence
- Ensure chain of custody when required
- Coordinate secure transport

V. Contact Information:

| | | |
|----------------------------------|--------------|-----------------------------|
| MT State Laboratory: | 800-821-7284 | 24-Hour |
| MT DPHHS (Epi Section) | 406-444-0273 | |
| MT DPHHS PHEP | 406-444-0919 | |
| MT DPHHS PHEP Duty Officer | 406-444-3075 | |
| Lincoln County Public Health | 406-283-2465 | 406-334-4595 24-Hour |
| Lincoln County Sheriff's Office | 406-293-4112 | ext 5 |
| City of Libby Police | 406-293-3343 | |
| City of Troy Police | 406-295-4111 | |
| City of Eureka Police | 406-297-2121 | |
| LC Emergency Management Agency | 406-293-6295 | |
| Cabinet Peaks Medical Center Lab | 406-283-7090 | |

Standard Lab Specimen Procedures:

SECTION VI. STANDARD CATEGORY B SPECIMENS

Category B specimens include routine patient specimens such as:

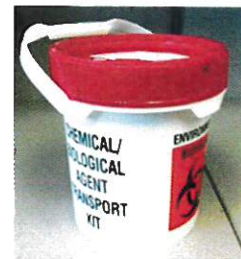
- Respiratory viral swabs
- Salmonella cultures
- Tuberculosis specimens
- Other public health concern samples not meeting Category A criteria

Procedures

1. Contact State Epidemiology or MTL SB prior to shipment for guidance regarding:
 - Collection requirements
 - Packaging instructions
 - Lab requisition completion
 - Expected arrival timeline
2. Package and label in compliance with:
 - 49 CFR 173.199
 - IATA Packaging Instruction 650
3. Ship via USPS, UPS, FedEx, or courier as directed by MTL SB.
4. Chain of custody is not required unless directed.
5. Documentation retained per public health record retention policy.

SECTION VII. CATEGORY A INFECTIOUS SUBSTANCES

6. Category A substances are capable of causing permanent disability, life threatening disease, or fatal outcomes upon exposure.
7. Examples include:
 - Suspected Ebola specimens
 - Select agents such as Bacillus anthracis
 - Francisella tularensis
8. **Requirements**
9. • Must be packaged and shipped by trained and certified personnel
 - Facility must maintain documentation of current training
 - Must comply with 49 CFR 172 and 173
10. The nearest facility with trained personnel and packaging materials is:
11. Cabinet Peaks Medical Center
 - 209 Health Park Drive
 - Libby MT 59923
 - 406 283 7090
12. LCHD will coordinate with the facility and MTL SB prior to shipment.



SECTION VIII. CHEMICAL BIOLOGICAL AGENT TRANSPORT CBAT

CBAT kits provide standardized collection for suspicious substances.

Location

Lincoln County Health Department
418 Mineral Avenue
Libby MT 59923

Activation

Upon identification of a suspicious substance:

1. Notify:
 - Law Enforcement
 - Emergency Management
 - LCHD
 - DPHHS Duty Officer
2. Notify MTL SB prior to collection when possible.
3. Samples must be prescreened for explosive, radiological, and chemical hazards by HAZMAT or Civil Support Team.
4. Trained personnel collect using CBAT kit procedures.
5. Chain of custody initiated immediately.
6. Secure transport arranged through:
 - Sheriff
 - Highway Patrol
 - MTL SB courier
7. MTL SB notified of estimated time of arrival.

All testing must involve a credible public health or law enforcement referral.

Drinking Water Emergency Sampling (DWES) Kit

SECTION IX. DRINKING WATER EMERGENCY SAMPLING DWES

DWES kits are used for suspected water tampering or contamination events. **Locations**

Lincoln County Health Department
City of Libby Water Treatment Plant

Procedures

- Collection by Registered Sanitarian
- Chain of custody required



- Notify MTL SB and DEQ prior to shipment
- Secure transport via Sheriff, Highway Patrol, or MTL SB courier

DWES kits are inventoried annually.

DWES Kit is located at:

Lincoln County Health Department
 418 Mineral Avenue
 Libby, MT 59923

City of Libby Water Treatment Plan
 199 Ravenwood Lane
 Libby, MT 59923

North Lincoln County Annex
 66121 MT Hwy 37
 Eureka, MT 59917

SECTION X. RAPID TOXIC SCREENING

For suspected chemical terrorism or large scale exposure events:

- Clinical specimens collected by hospital
- CDC authorization required
- Specimens routed through MTL SB
- Use Saf T Pak STP 300 or STP 310 containers
- Maintain full chain of custody



SECTION XI. CHAIN OF CUSTODY

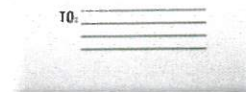
Chain of custody is required for:

- CBAT submissions
- DWES submissions
- Rapid Toxic Screens
- Any specimen associated with law enforcement investigation

Documentation includes:

- Date and time collected
- Collector name
- Transfer signatures
- Condition upon receipt

Records retained per legal requirements.



SECTION XII. TRANSPORT OPTIONS

Transport may include:

- MTL SB courier
- Lincoln County Sheriff
- Montana Highway Patrol
- Approved commercial carrier

Transport method must align with hazard classification and regulatory requirements.

SECTION XIII. TRAINING

- Personnel involved in packaging Category A or B substances must complete required DOT training.
- Training documentation maintained by employer.
- Plan reviewed annually.
- Exercises conducted as feasible in coordination with regional partners.

SECTION XIV. COMMUNICATION AND REPORTING

- LCHD notified of all credible threats.
- State Epidemiology notified within two hours for high risk events.
- MTL SB provides results to submitter and local jurisdiction.
- LCHD activates internal disease surveillance procedures when indicated.

SECTION XV. PLAN MAINTENANCE

This plan:

- Is reviewed annually
- Updated as regulations change
- Contact lists verified annually
- Kit inventories documented annually

The following is an overview of each agency's current collection and transport policy for specimens of immediate concern:

| Agency | Human Specimens | Environmental Samples |
|--|--|---|
| Cabinet Peaks Medical Center Laboratory | Staff trained on collection, Courier on-call for delivery | Staff trained on collection, Courier on-call for delivery |
| Lincoln County Sheriff's Office | Calls State crime lab for collection guidance on scene | Call Emergency Management Agency |
| Local Law Enforcement | Call Emergency Management Agency Calls State crime lab for collection guidance on scene | Call Emergency Management Agency |
| Montana Highway Patrol | Calls State crime lab for collection guidance on scene. | Call Lincoln County Emergency Management Agency |
| Local Fire Departments | Calls Law Enforcement | Calls Law Enforcement |
| Lincoln County Emergency Management Agency | If deemed credible threat to Public Health, notify LCHD/MT DPHHS. Maintain chain of custody. | If deemed credible threat to Public Health, notify HAZMAT and LCHD/MT DPHHS. Maintain chain of custody. |

Each of the agencies listed above have protocols in place regarding collection and transport of specimens of *non-immediate concern*.

The hospitals have internal policies regarding transportation of specimens of *immediate concern*.

The primary responsibility of specimen collection, packaging and delivery of hospital *specimens of immediate concern* lies with the individual agency as spelled out in their policies. Their policies include notification of LCHD of any suspect or actual threats to the public's health.

January 12, 2026

Senator Daines and Sheehy
Representatives Zinke and Downey

Dear-----

The Lincoln County Health Board has concerns about the growing influence of vaccination hesitancy in the United States. The current administration has an ongoing campaign against vaccination programs and is promoting unsubstantiated claims about vaccine safety, which is leading to widespread confusion, mistrust and ultimately, a risk to public health.

Vaccines are among the most effective public health inventions in history, such as measles, mumps, chickenpox, diphtheria, polio, pertussis, tetanus and other disease states that are now seldom encountered. Vaccines have decreased the incidence of hepatitis A and B, pneumonia, shingles, RSV, and influenzae. This has prevented immense suffering and death. When influential figures cast doubt on their safety and necessity, it undermines years of scientific progress.

While "VACCINE CHOICE" is framed as personal freedom, with misinformation, it results in decreased vaccination rates and increased preventable diseases. The Lincoln County Health Board believes in Public Health foremost and not unproven political theories. This is especially important in our community with limited access to accurate medical information.

Equally troubling are efforts, both direct and indirect, that limit vaccine availability. Restrictive legislation, reduced funding for vaccine programs, or policies that discourage health care providers from recommending vaccines all serve to endanger our community. Indirect limitations, such as spreading misinformation, that cause our citizens to delay or refuse vaccinations, can have the same devastating effects as legal requirements.

Public health relies on public trust. It is critical that accurate science-based information remains widely available to all. Efforts should be made to counteract misinformation and conspiracy theories and reaffirm the collective responsibility we share in protecting our community from preventable disease.

I urge you to take a firm stance in supporting vaccination access, combating misinformation, and promoting evidence-based health policies. Congress must exercise its oversight authority over Health and Human Services. The consequences of inaction or complacency could undo decades of progress in public health and jeopardize the Lincoln County community.

Thank you for the attention to this matter

Lincoln County Health Board