

Big Sky Resort Area District
(406) 995-3234
PO Box 160661,
Big Sky, MT 59716
www.ResortTax.org
info@resorttax.org



BigSkyRelief.org

Big Sky Relief Partner Meeting- 02/01/22

On Tuesday, February 1st, the Big Sky Relief Partner Meeting kicked off at 12 p.m. and lasted approximately 30 minutes.

The purpose of the virtual meeting is to consolidate regular updates for the Big Sky Community as well as to identify and coordinate needs.

Big Sky Resort Area District Executive Director, Daniel Bierschwale coordinated the meeting.

Updates in order of presentation:

Daniel Bierschwale, Big Sky Resort Area District (BSRAD):

- Received 2nd shipment of rapid tests. Supply is good and should last a while. Throttled back distribution to 100 tests/day and have not run out of supply in over a week.
- Reach out to the District if you have a testing need or feel there is a need to order more tests for the rest of winter.
- Will revisit supply and the need for more tests when we have half our current stock remaining.

Taylor Rose, Bozeman Health Big Sky Medical Center (BHBSMC):

- Demand for testing has tapered off in the month of January, expect things to pick up for February and January.
- Panther machine is up and running and seeing next day results.
- In patient and ER capacity are both doing well.
- Have some non-COVID related staffing issues.

Chief Greg Megaard, Big Sky Fire Department (BSFD):

- Calls have picked up in January.
- No needs currently.

Sergeant Dan Haydon, Gallatin County Sheriff's Office (GCSO):

- Busy winter with significant cases and calls.

- Staffing levels have been maintained and staff are staying healthy.

David Kack, Big Sky Transportation District (BSTD):

- Had a few drivers out with COVID and have overall staffing shortage. Have modified schedule to accommodate this.
- Fire Department is using bus barn for storage.
- Federal Mask Mandate for transportation goes through mid-March.
- No needs currently.

Sarah Gaither, Big Sky Community Foodbank (BSCFB):

- December and January have been the busiest two months in the history of the foodbank.
- Doing good with food, staffing, and volunteers to meet demand.
- Still seeing customers that are living in their cars due to the lack of housing.
- Saw a spike in deliveries for folks in quarantine and isolation.
- Washer and dryer have arrived at foodbank, a great new service for customers.
- A large portion of customers are limited English speakers and J1 students.
- Secured funding for emergency housing for violence victims in partnership with the Housing Trust and the Sheriff's office.

Brad Niva, Big Sky Chamber of Commerce (BSCC):

- Working on workforce recruitment and retention and looking into a long-term solution.

Whitney Montgomery, Big Sky Community Organization (BSCO):

- BASE opening date coming soon.
- Looking at how to respond to COVID and keep people safe inside once BASE opens.

Dustin Shipman, Big Sky School District (BSSD):

- Masks are still required at the school. The board will reevaluate policy at the meeting on February 15.
- Have had several staffing issues over the last few weeks,
- Testing students, teachers, and parents upon request.

Scott Poloff, Big Sky Discover Academy (BSDA):

- Testing staff weekly.
- No student COVID cases since the New Year.

Hannah Richardson, Spanish Peaks Community Foundation (SPCF):

- Still have Big Sky Relief funds available.
- Open to supporting another vaccine incentive program.

Anna Shipley, Moonlight Community Foundation (MCF):

- No updates or needs currently.

Shannon Steele, Yellowstone Club Community Foundation (YCCF):

- COVID has had a huge impact on Behavioral Health. Crisis calls and incidents have all increased.
- Behavioral Grants have been very helpful and had a positive impact on our community.
- Women In Action has hired a new Executive Director.
- 211 is the number to contact a crisis counselor.