

February 29, 2024

Morrow County Residents,

We want to provide clarity to the public about what to expect after March 12, 2024, when Morrow County Health District ceases to be the ambulance service provider for Morrow County.

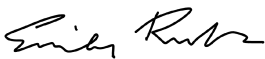
After consulting with legal counsel, MCHD has determined that we can provide the following backup emergency medical services countywide:

1. MCHD's Quick Response Teams (EMS personnel), located in each community, may respond as needed to medical calls to provide stabilizing care.
2. MCHD may transport patients by ambulance if appropriately dispatched and if a delay in transport would place the patient at risk of harm or death, based upon the professional judgement of the care provider on scene. The same holds true if assistance is requested by officials at the scene of an accident (motor vehicle or otherwise).

After March 12, 2024, MCHD will only have one full-time EMT or paramedic on staff at a time. This person will primarily perform patient care duties in the hospital, but will be available to complete patient transfers from Pioneer Memorial Hospital and may be available to respond to emergency medical calls. MCHD will not have sufficient staff or resources to respond to all medical calls and our assistance should be requested only when the County's selected ambulance service provider is unable to respond timely. It must be understood that any response by MCHD is subject to availability of personnel as MCHD will no longer be the primary responder.

In addition to backup emergency support, MCHD will continue to administer the Tri-County Ambulance Association for the foreseeable future. (Membership covers payment of any balance owed after insurance coverage for medically necessary ambulance service. The cost for a family membership is \$45 per year. In addition to coverage in Morrow, Gilliam, and Wheeler counties, members receive benefits in over 50 other service areas.) We have encouraged Morrow County to require their selected ambulance service provider to engage in a reciprocal agreement with the Tri-County Ambulance Association.

We want to be very clear that Morrow County Health District intends to submit a proposal for a 5-year service agreement to provide ambulance service to all of Morrow County as soon as the County releases their request for proposals for a permanent ambulance service provider. In the interim, we have grave concerns about the changes the County is implementing currently, and MCHD is unwilling to stand by without offering our available resources to the community we serve, especially when patients need us most.



Emily Roberts  
Chief Executive Officer  
Morrow County Health District  
541-676-2915