

Montana Health Alert Network

DPHHS HAN

UPDATE

Cover Sheet

DATE

May 6, 2020

SUBJECT

Update and Interim Guidance on Outbreak of Coronavirus Disease 2019 (COVID-19)

INSTRUCTIONS

DISTRIBUTE to your local HAN contacts. This HAN is intended for general sharing of information.

- Time for Forwarding: **As Soon As Possible**
- Please forward to DPHHS at hhshan@mt.gov
- Remove this cover sheet before redistributing and replace it with your own

**REMOVE THIS COVER SHEET
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Please ensure that DPHHS is included on your HAN distribution list.
hhshan@mt.gov

Categories of Health Alert Messages:

Health Alert: conveys the highest level of importance; warrants immediate action or attention.

Health Advisory: provides important information for a specific incident or situation; may not require immediate action.

Health Update: provides updated information regarding an incident or situation; unlikely to require immediate action.

Information Service: passes along low level priority messages that do not fit other HAN categories and are for informational purposes only.

Please update your HAN contact information on the [Montana Public Health Directory](#)



LOCAL HEALTH DEPARTMENT reference only

DPHHS Subject Matter Resource for more information regarding this HAN, contact:

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For technical issues related to the HAN message contact the Emergency Preparedness Section at 1-406-444-0919

DPHHS Health Alert Hotline:
1-800-701-5769

DPHHS HAN Website:
www.han.mt.gov

DPHHS HAN

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SITUATION UPDATE

Montana continues to experience a decline in the number of COVID-19 cases reported weekly with 10 reported in the most recent reporting period. Trends will be watched closely to determine the impact of gradual reopening efforts.

Epidemiology Update

The number of reported cases in the United States continued to increase over the past week. To date, over 1,171,510 cases of COVID-19 including 68,279 deaths have been reported in the U.S., with community wide transmission identified across the nation.

Montana is reporting 456 cases of COVID-19 as of 9:00 am 5/6/2020. Of these, 417 have recovered, 61 individuals have been hospitalized, and sixteen have died. The median age of reported cases is 48 years (range: 1 – 98 years). Approximately half of Montana COVID-19 cases are female. To date five counties in Montana have declared that they are experiencing community-wide transmission (Flathead, Gallatin, Lewis and Clark, Missoula, and Yellowstone).

Recent data analyses determined that local public health has followed up on more than 2,000 contacts of COVID-19 cases. This week the latest COVID-19 EPI report on the state update includes a summary of COVID-19 contact tracing and cluster investigations. The report can be accessed here:

<https://dphhs.mt.gov/publichealth/cdepi/diseases/coronavirusmt/demographics>

For the latest Montana updates including a map of cases (updated once per day by 10:00 am):

<https://covid19.mt.gov>

For additional Montana COVID-19 case demographic tables and epi curve:

<https://dphhs.mt.gov/publichealth/cdepi/diseases/coronavirusmt/demographics>

CDC case counts are found here:

<https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/cases-updates/cases-in-us.html>

WHO case counts can be viewed here:

<https://www.who.int/emergencies/diseases/novel-coronavirus-2019/situation-reports/>

Laboratory Update

We continue to prioritize testing of symptomatic individuals and the lab is operating at full capacity. Please continue to encourage testing of all symptomatic individuals and contact public health in the event of testing difficulties.

EMERGENCY MEDICAL SERVICES

No updates at this time.

HEALTHCARE

Outpatient Hemodialysis Centers

CDC has released a *Frontline Staff Toolkit for Outpatient Hemodialysis Facilities*:

https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/hcp/dialysis.html#anchor_1588604087

This new resource highlights the importance of infection prevention and control practices in outpatient dialysis facilities to slow the spread of Coronavirus Disease 2019 (COVID-19). Staff who are having frequent patient interactions and providing direct care in outpatient hemodialysis facilities are encouraged to watch and learn more about everyday infection prevention practices, as well as some additional practices that are essential during COVID-19. These brief educational videos can be viewed as a set or in segments as time allows:

Tips for Outpatient Hemodialysis Facilities during COVID-19

Video #1 - Infection Prevention Basics: Hand Hygiene & Environmental Disinfection:

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=iV09sQKNo8A&feature=emb_title

Video #2 - Personal Protective Equipment (PPE):

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=a8wtli83X8I&feature=emb_title

Video #3 - Screening & Patient Placement:

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=9ai1UivV5CM&feature=emb_title

Updated Criteria for Return to Work for Healthcare Personnel with Confirmed or Suspected COVID-19

Decisions about return to work for Healthcare Personnel (HCP) with confirmed or suspected COVID-19 should be made in the context of local circumstances. CD Epi recommends using the test-based strategy in sensitive settings, such as long-term care settings.

This updated guidance includes the following:

- Changed the name of the ‘non-test-based strategy’ to ‘symptom-based strategy’ for those with symptoms and ‘time-based strategy’ for those without symptoms. Updated to extend the duration of exclusion from work to at least 10 days since symptoms first appeared.
- Based on this extension of the symptom-based and time-based strategies, language about the test-based strategy being preferred was removed.

https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/hcp/return-to-work.html?deliveryName=USCDC_425-DM27363

Healthcare Facilities and Long-Term Care

Updated Evaluating and Testing Persons for Coronavirus Disease 2019 (COVID-19)

This guidance has updated priorities for testing patients with suspected COVID-19 infection. Increased testing capacity will allow clinicians to consider COVID-19 testing for a wider group of symptomatic patients and persons without symptoms in certain situations.

https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-nCoV/hcp/clinical-criteria.html?deliveryName=USCDC_425-DM27363

Updated Therapeutic Options

There are no drugs or other therapeutics presently approved by the U.S. Food and Drug Administration to prevent or treat COVID-19. Persons seeking information about registered clinical trials for COVID-19 in the United States can search for such information here: <https://clinicaltrials.gov/>. To learn more, please read *Information for Clinicians on Investigational Therapeutics for Patients with COVID-19* found at:

https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/hcp/therapeutic-options.html?deliveryName=USCDC_425-DM27363

Updated Discontinuation of Transmission-Based Precautions and Disposition of Patients with COVID-19 in Healthcare Settings

CDC has provided interim guidance regarding discontinuing transmission-based precautions and discharging hospitalized patients with COVID-19. This updated guidance includes the following:

- Changed the name of the ‘non-test-based strategy’ to ‘symptom-based strategy’ for those with symptoms and ‘time-based strategy’ for those without symptoms. Updated these to extend the duration of exclusion from work to at least 10 days since symptoms first appeared.
- Added criteria for discontinuing Transmission-Based Precautions for patients who have laboratory-confirmed COVID-19 but have not had any symptoms of COVID-19.

https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/hcp/disposition-hospitalized-patients.html?deliveryName=USCDC_425-DM27363

Updated Personal Protective Equipment (PPE) Burn Rate Calculator

Mobile app version now available – The Personal Protective Equipment (PPE) Burn Rate Calculator is now available as an app. Facilities can use the NIOSH PPE Tracker app to calculate their average PPE consumption rate or “burn rate.” The app estimates how many days a PPE supply will last given current inventory levels and PPE burn rate. To learn more, please read *PPE Burn Rate Calculator* found at:

https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/hcp/ppe-strategy/burn-calculator.html?deliveryName=USCDC_425-DM27363

New Testing for Coronavirus (COVID-19) in Nursing Homes

Testing conducted at nursing homes should be implemented in addition to existing infection prevention and control measures recommended by CDC, including visitor restriction, cessation of communal dining and group activities, monitoring all HCP and residents for signs and symptoms of COVID-19, and universal masking as source control. See CDC guidance on *Preparing for COVID-19: Long-Term Care Facilities and Nursing Homes* for more details.

Testing for Coronavirus (COVID-19) in Nursing Homes:

<https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/hcp/nursing-homes-testing.html>

Preparing for COVID-19: Long-term Care Facilities, Nursing Homes:

<https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/hcp/long-term-care.html>

LOCAL PUBLIC HEALTH DEPARTMENTS

Updates will be provided on phone call regarding new surveillance activities.

SCHOOLS

No updates at this time.