

Interim Analysis of COVID-19 cases in Montana (as of 9/3/2021)

This report is an interim epidemiological review of COVID-19 cases in Montana. Data is analyzed based on information available as of September 3, 2021. Current case count at the time of analysis is:

Case Count = 130,258

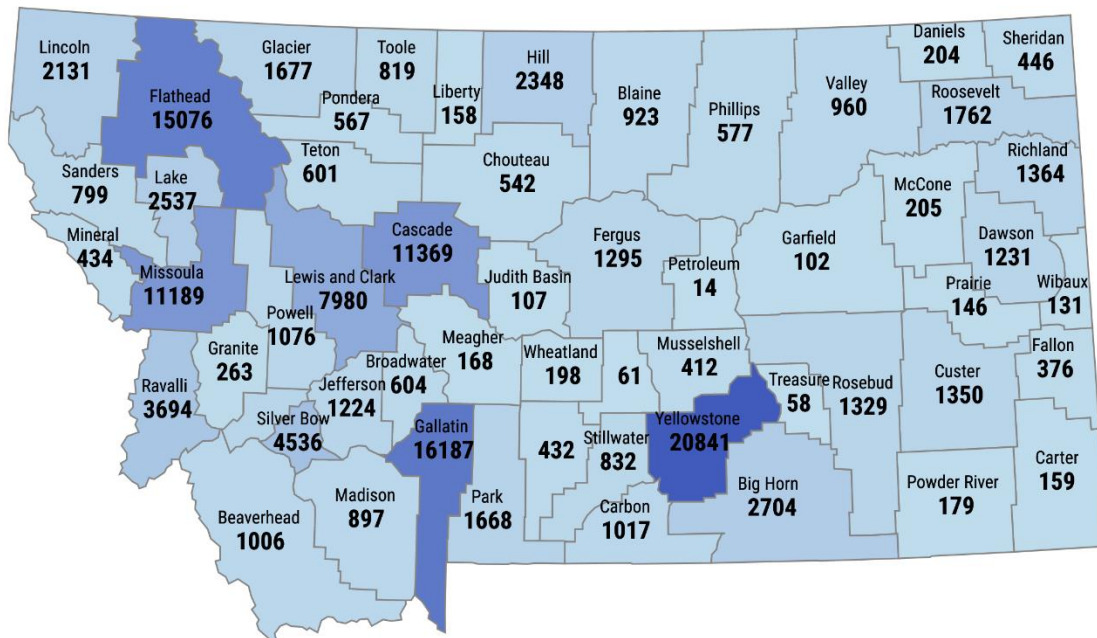
This report is completed using data that is available during the time of analysis and there may be a delay between current case count and this report, due to rapidly changing updates. When data is limited to available information, number of cases included in analysis is indicated in graphs.

Geographic Distribution

There are 130,258 cases of COVID-19 reported from all 56 counties in Montana. Most cases are reported in more populous counties. Yellowstone County and Gallatin County are the most impacted to date, reporting 16% and 12% of all reported cases, respectively. Flathead (12%), Cascade (9%), Missoula (9%), and Lewis & Clark (6%) counties report more than 7,000 cases each (Figure 1).

Figure 1: Map of Reported Montana COVID-19 cases*

Reported COVID-19 Cases in Montana as of 9/3/2021



*Cases reported on the map initially included residents of other states who were tested and isolated in Montana. As COVID-19 is widespread across the United States, the map does not include out-of-state residents who test positive in Montana to align with CSTE residency guidelines that classify cases by the individual's state of residence. This is standard practice for all communicable diseases to ensure accurate data for Montana.

Hospitalizations and Deaths and Vaccination Status

COVID-19 related hospitalization and death data **July 10 – September 3** (last 8 weeks) were analyzed to review vaccination status. Eighty-three percent of Montanans who were hospitalized and 72% of those who died had not received a COVID-19 vaccine (Table 3). Of the 941 individuals who were hospitalized during this time period, 11 (1%) were <18 years old, 164 (17%) were 18 to 44 years old, 318 (34%) were 45 to 64 years old and 448 (48%) were >65 years old.

Table 2: Vaccination status of reported COVID-19 hospitalizations and deaths – July 10 – Sep 3, 2021

	HOSPITALIZATIONS	DEATHS
TOTAL REPORTED	941	115
MEDIAN AGE (YEARS)	63	75
AGE RANGE (YEARS)	<1-97	38-96
UNVACCINATED	778 (83%)	83 (72%)
VACCINATED (BREAKTHROUGH CASE)	163 (17%)	32 (28%)

COVID-19 Variant Trends

A variant has one or more mutations that differentiate it from other variants in circulation. Multiple variants of SARS-COV-2 have been documented throughout this pandemic. There were 2,626 samples that were sequenced and reported to [GISAID](#) since February 2021. The B.1.617.2 (Delta) variant has been the most predominant in Montana in the last two months. March through June, the Alpha/UK variant was predominant. Beginning in July, the Delta variant has been detected more commonly in sequenced samples. During August and September, Delta accounted for an average of 96% of all samples sequenced (Figure 15). Not all samples have enough genetic material to be sequenced. The charts below reflect information on specimens that were sequenced and reported to GISAID.

Figure 15: Percent of COVID-19 Variants in Sequenced Samples by Collection Date, Montana

