February 2023 COVID-19 Update in Montana (as of 2/24/2023)

This report is a summary of COVID-19 activity in Montana in February of 2023. Data from January are analyzed based on information available as of February 24, 2023. Data are provisional and are expected to change as more information is received.

Case Data

Table 1. Summary of COVID-19 Activity – Montana, as of 2/24/2023*

	TOTAL	1/28-2/3	2/4-2/10	2/11-2/17	2/18-2/24	FOUR WEEK TOTAL	PERCENT CHANGE FROM PREVIOUS FOUR WEEKS***
REPORTED CASES	**329,050**	**626**	**690**	**776**	**785**	**2,877**	**+15%**
HOSPITALIZATIONS**	**14,166**	**35**	**39**	**47**	**66**	**47**	**+12%**
REPORTED DEATHS	**3,651**	**4**	**1**	**3**	**3**	**11**	**-35%**

***Note**: as of January 1, 2023, national reporting requirements for counting individual cases of COVID-19 changed. Individuals can only be counted as a case of COVID-19 if they have laboratory testing completed by a medical provider.
**Weekly hospitalization data reflects the average number of active hospitalizations reported daily.
***Percent change is calculated by comparing data for the four weeks included in this report with the data for the four weeks prior. For example, the percent change in this report reflects the difference in data between 1/28-2/24 and 12/31-1/27.

Figure 1. COVID-19 Cases and Hospitalizations over Time – Montana, as of 2/24/2023

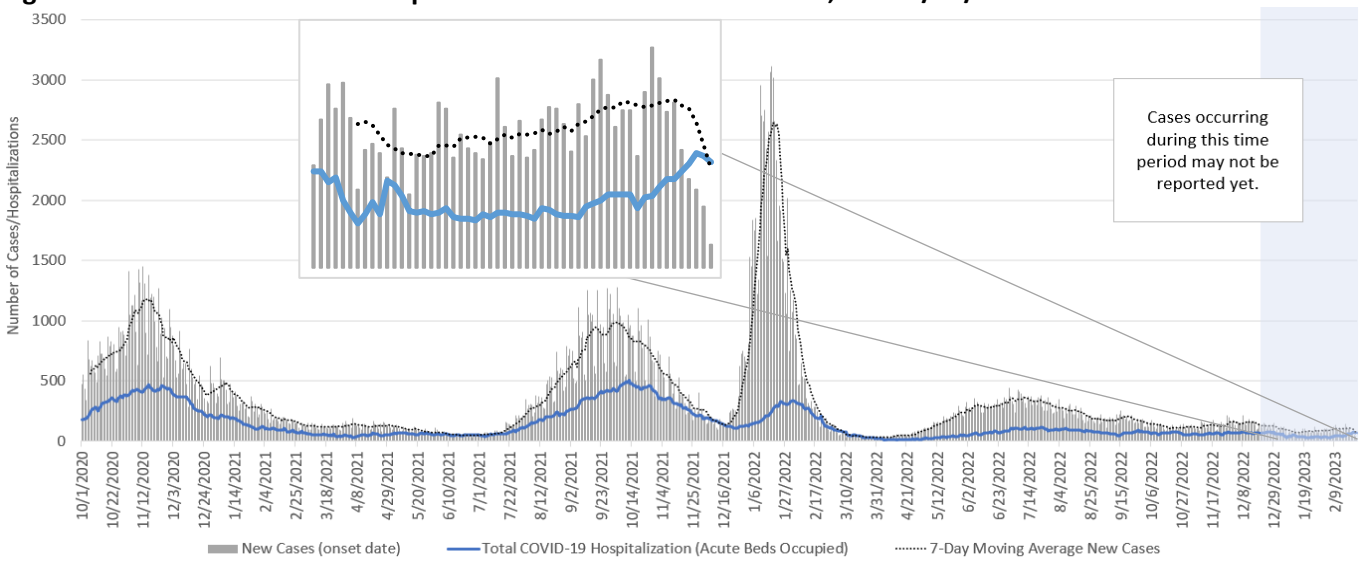


Figure 2. COVID-19 Deaths by Date of Death – Montana, 11/1/2020 – 2/24/2023

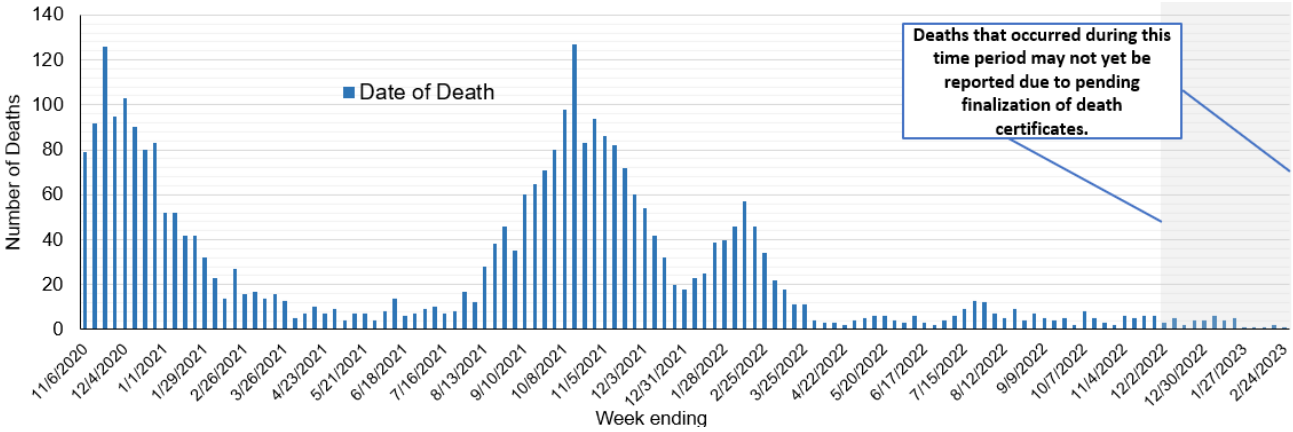
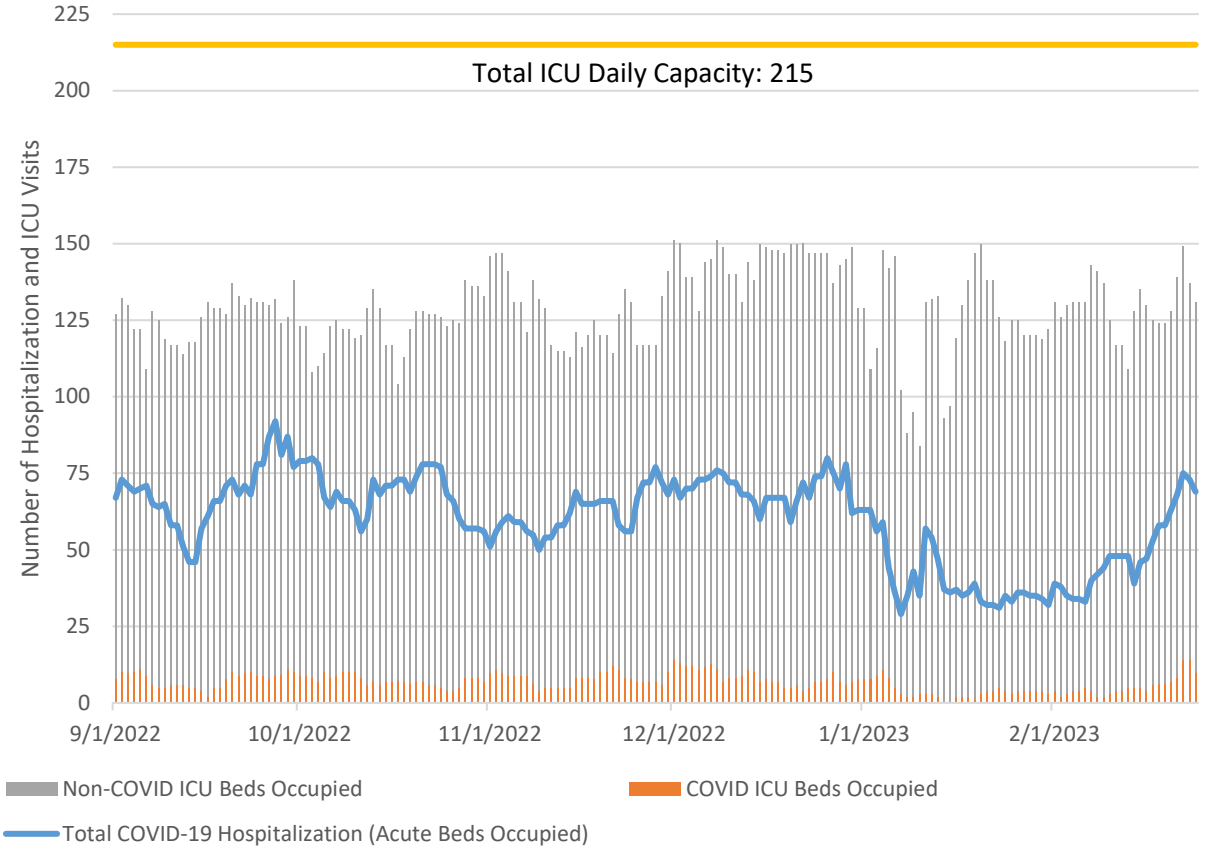


Figure 3: Status of Acute Care and ICU Beds – Hospitals in Montana, September 2022-February 2023



Vaccine Data

Montana began vaccinating individuals in mid-December 2020 with a phased process: Phase 1A on December 14, 2020, Phase 1B on January 19, 2021, and Phase 1B+ on March 8, 2021. Vaccinations were opened to all Montanans age 16+ on April 1, 2021, and expanded to all Montanans age 12+ on May 10th, 2021. The Pfizer vaccine was approved for the 5–11 year-old age group on October 29th, 2021. The Pfizer and Moderna vaccines were approved for all Montanans aged 6 months and older on June 18, 2022. To date, 1,663,521 doses have been given across the state and 53% of the eligible population has completed their primary COVID-19 vaccine series (table 2). Of the 3,369 COVID vaccine doses administered in February, the vast majority were booster doses.

Table 2: COVID-19 Vaccine Doses Administered, 0+ years-old – Montana, as of 2/24/2023

	TOTAL	1/28-2/3	2/4-2/10	2/11-2/17	2/18-2/24	FOUR WEEK TOTAL	PERCENT CHANGE FROM PREVIOUS FOUR WEEKS
TOTAL DOSES ADMINISTERED	**1,663,521**	988	1,012	816	**553**	**3,369**	**-61%**
COMPLETED PRIMARY SERIES	**573,585**	66	59	57	**40**	**222**	**-36%**

*The data for the most recent week are preliminary and are expected to be an underestimate of the doses administered during the week, due to a reporting lag.

COVID Variant Information

DPHHS is monitoring variants of the SARS-CoV-2 virus circulating in Montana. Figure 4 displays the number of COVID samples sequenced by week in the past year. Figure 5 displays the percentage of the most common SARS-CoV-2 lineages detected out of all COVID samples sequenced by week. Please note the relatively small number of samples sequenced in recent weeks limits interpretation of the available sequencing data.

The Omicron variant has been the dominant variant circulating in Montana since December of 2021. Lineages of the Omicron variant, including BA.1, BA.2, BA.2.12.1, BA.2.75, BA.4, BA.5, BF.7, BQ.1, BQ.1.1, XBB, and XBB.1.5, have been identified in Montana. There were 47 sequences reported to GISAID from positive samples collected and sequenced in February 2023—35 (74%) XBB.1.5, 5 (11%) BQ.1.1, 2 (4%) BA.5, 1 (2%) BF.7, 1 (2%) BQ.1, 1 (2%) XBB, and 2 (4%) other Omicron sublineages.

Figure 4. Number of COVID-19 samples sequenced by collection date, Montana 2/25/2023

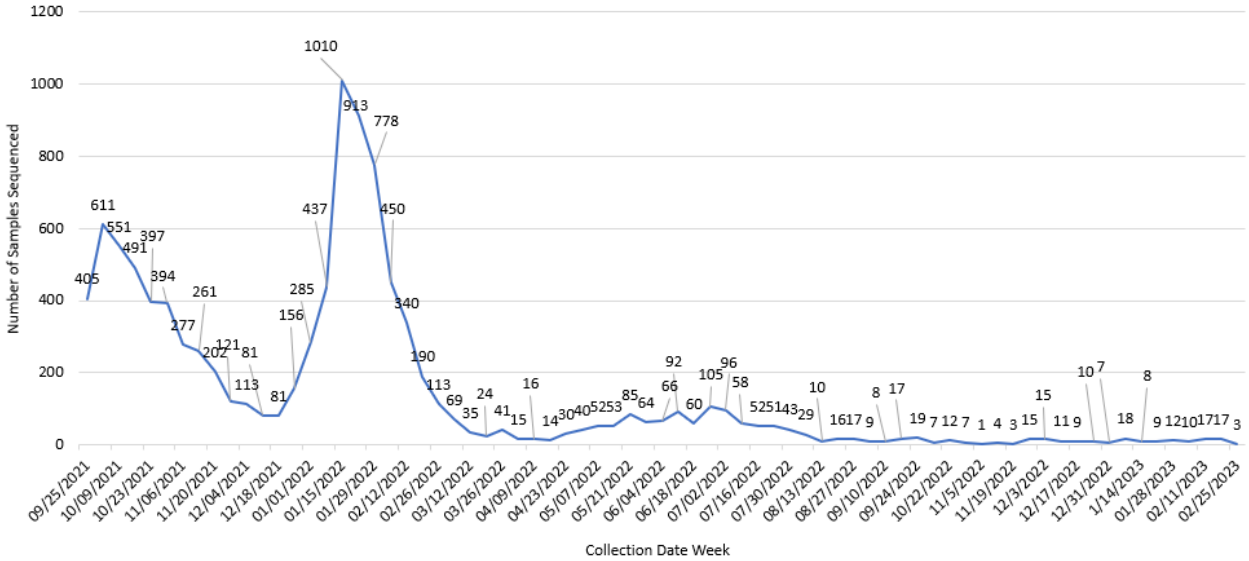
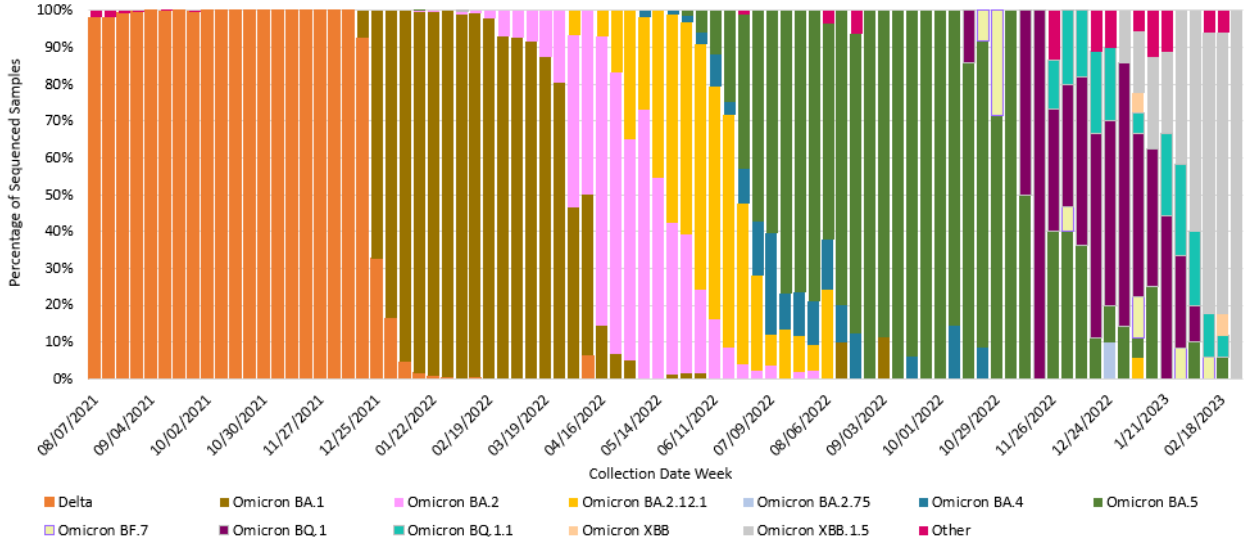


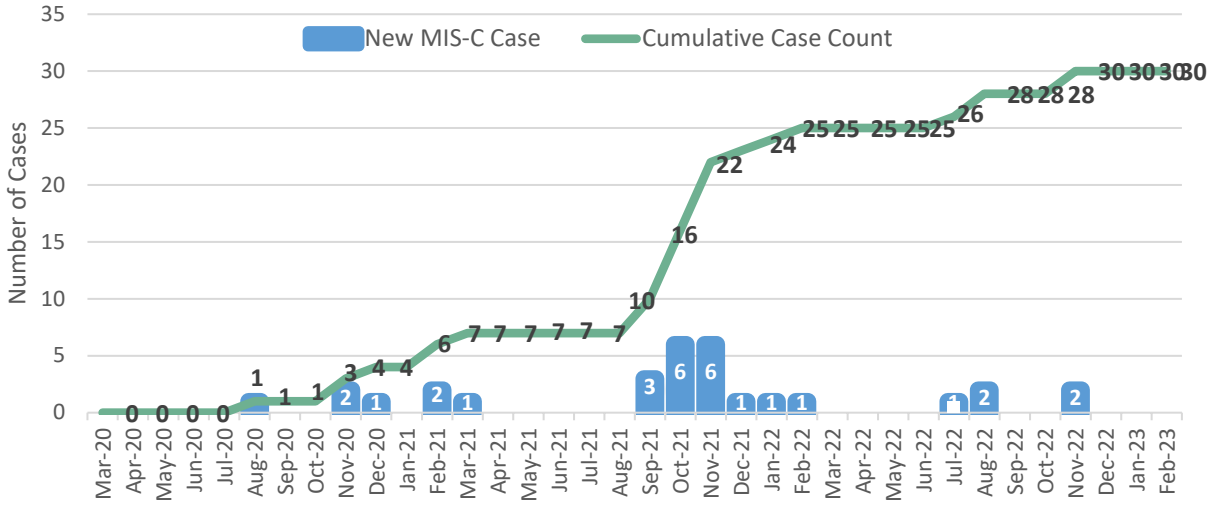
Figure 5. Percent of COVID-19 variants in sequenced samples by collection date, Montana 2/25/2023



Multisystem Inflammatory Syndrome in Children (MIS-C)

As of February 24, 2023, there have been a total of 30 cases of multisystem inflammatory syndrome in children, or MIS-C, reported in Montana (Figure 6). There has been 1 death. Ages range from less than 1 year to 20 years old; median is 8 years. Of the 30 cases, 14 are female and 16 are male. No cases were vaccinated against SARS-CoV-2. Cases are from 14 counties around Montana.

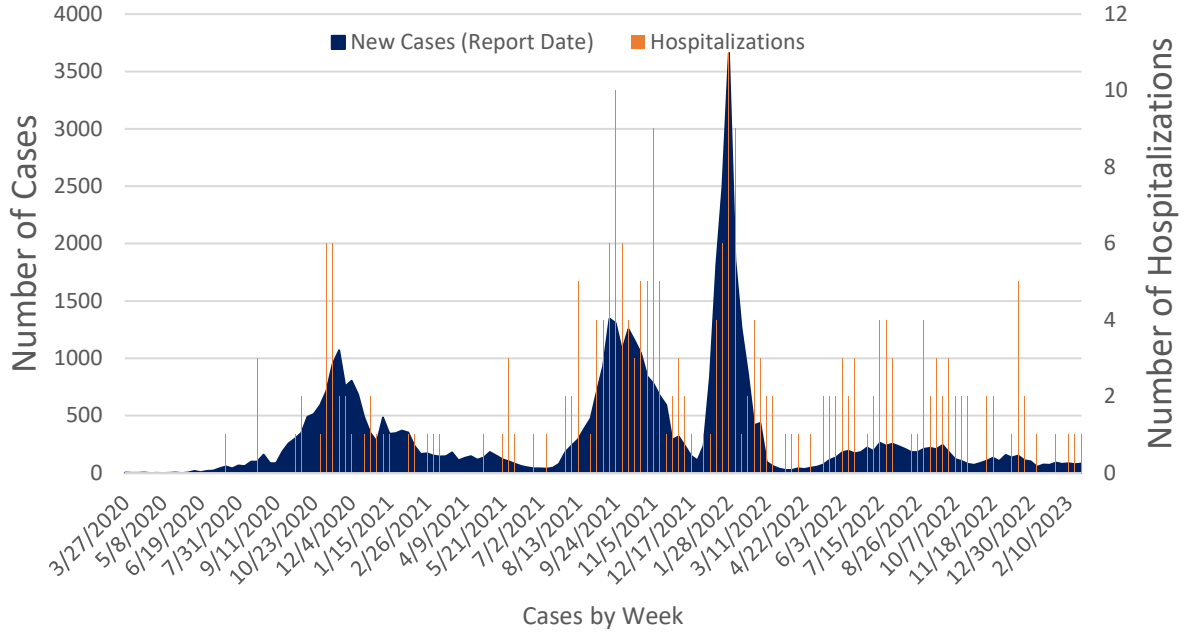
Figure 6. Montana MIS-C Cases by Month of Onset, March 2020 – February 2023



Cases and Hospitalizations Associated with COVID-19 Among Children

To date, there have been 49,296 children <18 years old in Montana diagnosed with COVID-19. Of those, 241 (<1%) have been hospitalized (Figure 7). Case rates among children follow a similar pattern to COVID-19 cases among all age groups (see Figure 1 for comparison). There were 324 cases of COVID-19 in children reported between January 28-February 24, 2023, which is an 11% increase in cases among that age group compared to the four weeks prior. Of the 324 cases, 3 (1%) were hospitalized, which is a 50% increase in hospitalizations among that age group compared to the four weeks prior.

Figure 7. COVID-19 Cases and Hospitalizations by Week, March 2020 – February 24, 2023, Children <18



Assisted Living Facilitiy and Long-Term Care Facility Cases and Hospitalizations

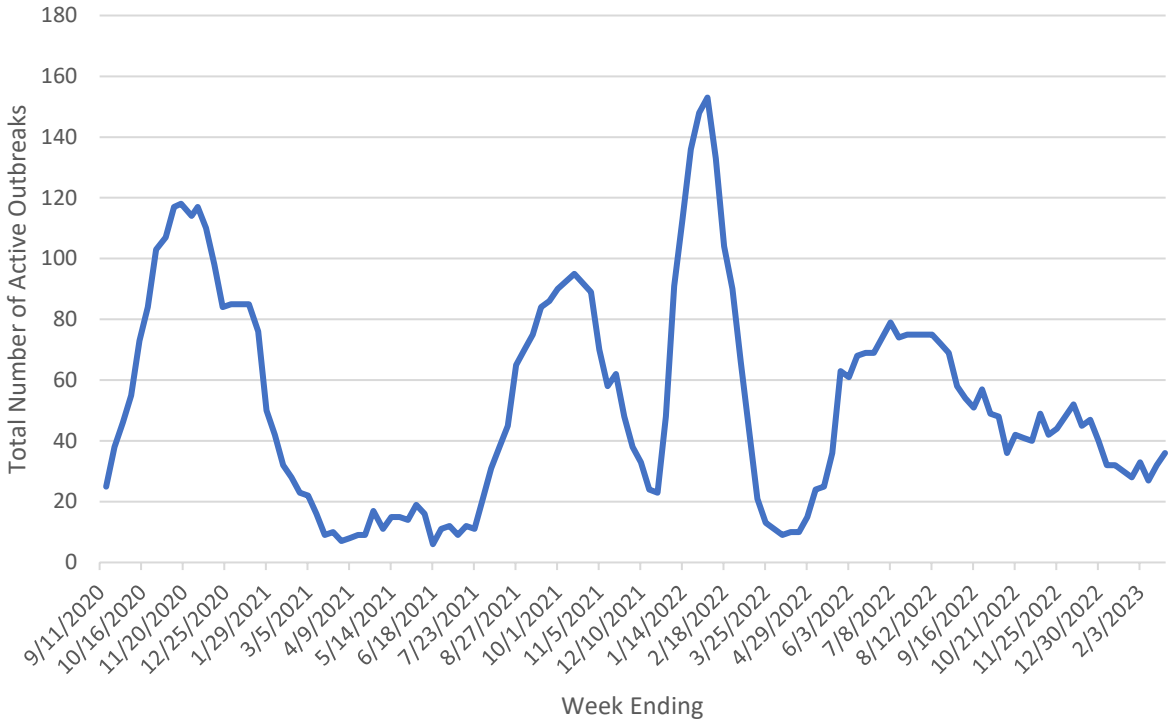
There are 71 long-term care facilities (LTCFs) and 211 assisted living facilities (ALFs) in Montana. As of February 24, 2023, there have been 16,030 cases associated with ALFs and LTCFs since the beginning of the pandemic, which comprises 5% of the total number of COVID-19 cases Montana has reported. There have been 694 COVID-related deaths associated with ALFs and LTCFs in Montana, which accounts for 19% of the COVID-related deaths that Montana has reported since the beginning of the pandemic. Table 3 summarizes recent COVID-19 activity in Montana ALFs and LTCFs.

Facilities that have identified a case of COVID-19 in a resident or staff member within the last 14 days are considered to be actively responding to an outbreak. Figure 8 displays active outbreaks in ALFs and LTCFs in Montana by week.

Table 3. Summary of Recent Montana ALF and LTCF Cases, Deaths, and Outbreaks, as of 2/24/2023

	1/28-2/3	2/4-2/10	2/11-2/17	2/18-2/24
REPORTED CASES	**97**	**96**	**170**	**148**
REPORTED DEATHS	**1**	**0**	**1**	**0**
ACTIVE OUTBREAKS	**33**	**27**	**32**	**36**

Figure 8. Montana ALF and LTCF Outbreaks by Week, September 2020-February 2023



Reported COVID-19 Cases by County with Trendline – Montana, past 6 weeks

County	20 Jan	28 Jan	3 Feb	10 Feb	17 Feb	24 Feb	Change from Previous Week	Trendline
Beaverhead	1	1	1	3	3	4	1	
Big Horn	18	59	41	13	10	1	-9	
Blaine	1	3	2	1	1	4	3	
Broadwater	6	1	7	5	3	2	-1	
Carbon	2	4	1	5	5	7	2	
Carter	0	0	1	1	0	1	1	
Cascade	68	52	54	34	32	48	16	
Chouteau	9	4	3	5	9	7	-2	
Custer	5	6	0	1	2	6	4	
Daniels	0	0	1	1	0	2	2	
Dawson	3	2	4	3	4	3	-1	
Deer Lodge	9	2	6	6	6	14	8	
Fallon	0	2	2	1	4	0	-4	
Fergus	16	10	3	5	3	6	3	
Flathead	34	32	32	40	34	58	24	
Gallatin	73	76	88	130	142	130	-12	
Garfield	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	
Glacier	5	9	19	6	7	8	1	
Golden Valley	1	0	1	2	3	2	-1	
Granite	1	1	1	0	0	4	4	
Hill	3	10	7	9	8	8	0	
Jefferson	3	12	3	2	12	8	-4	
Judith Basin	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	
Lake	11	11	8	15	28	17	-11	
Lewis and Clark	34	28	30	29	32	25	-7	
Liberty	0	3	1	0	0	0	0	
Lincoln	6	11	12	7	6	13	7	
Madison	5	2	4	1	3	1	-2	
McCone	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	
Meagher	6	0	1	2	2	0	-2	

Missoula	36	44	80	100	136	108	-28
Park	5	5	6	7	3	9	6
Phillips	0	3	1	0	2	1	-1
Powder River	2	0	0	1	0	1	1
Prairie	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Richland	5	4	0	8	10	14	4
Rosebud	0	3	4	2	3	1	-2
Sheridan	0	0	0	0	9	7	-2
Stillwater	1	1	0	2	3	4	1
Teton	1	2	2	8	5	1	-4
Treasure	0	0	0	0	1	0	-1
Wheatland	0	0	1	0	0	0	0
Yellowstone	99	82	142	136	144	156	12
MONTANA	**545**	**566**	**626**	**690**	**776**	**785**	**9**

Note: Data are based on the date of report into the Montana Infectious Disease Information System (MIDIS).

Data are preliminary and are subject to change as the MIDIS database is updated with additional case information.

COVID-19 Vaccine Administrations by County, Montana 2020-2022

County name	Total Population	Completed Primary Series	% Completed Primary Series	Bivalent Booster Doses	Total Doses Administered
BEAVERHEAD	9,483	5,125	54%	1,148	14,226
BIG HORN	13,063	7,549	58%	1,326	20,314
BLAINE	6,568	3,470	53%	782	9,874
BROADWATER	6,444	2,071	32%	413	6,026
CARBON	10,921	5,213	48%	1,263	15,130
CARTER	1,235	364	29%	62	1,003
CASCADE	81,346	39,175	48%	9,014	110,281
CHOUTEAU	5,699	2,144	38%	554	6,451
CUSTER	11,292	4,927	44%	1,166	13,775
DANIELS	1,638	701	43%	177	1,979
DAWSON	8,555	3,265	38%	674	9,208
DEER LODGE	9,204	5,923	64%	1,716	17,605
FALLON	2,826	987	35%	157	2,694
FERGUS	11,104	5,288	48%	1,536	15,737
FLATHEAD	105,851	46,732	44%	12,108	135,456
GALLATIN	116,806	70,567	60%	17,069	204,561
GARFIELD	1,268	302	24%	22	717
GLACIER	13,594	8,094	60%	1,529	24,019
GOLDEN VALLEY	827	370	45%	80	1,033
GRANITE	3,317	1,298	39%	354	3,821
HILL	16,358	9,447	58%	3,319	26,872
JEFFERSON	12,360	6,403	52%	1,756	19,175
JUDITH BASIN	1,994	789	40%	210	2,285
LAKE	30,986	18,556	60%	4,899	54,414
LEWIS & CLARK	70,229	41,000	58%	10,937	124,313
LIBERTY	2,369	829	35%	196	2,377
LINCOLN	20,343	8,604	42%	2,107	25,155
MADISON	8,959	4,039	45%	601	11,562
MCCONE	1,648	432	26%	119	1,300
MEAGHER	1,831	971	53%	235	2,819
MINERAL	4,544	2,458	54%	665	6,907
MISSOULA	121,630	78,584	65%	25,280	234,643
MUSSELSHELL	4,669	1,669	36%	352	4,537
PARK	16,760	9,892	59%	2,830	29,155
PETROLEUM	500	152	30%	37	436
PHILLIPS	3,919	1,793	46%	373	4,862
PONDERA	5,782	3,688	64%	650	9,581
POWDER RIVER	1,681	457	27%	95	1,260
POWELL	6,817	4,006	59%	660	10,651
PRAIRIE	1,067	450	42%	102	1,319
RAVALLI	45,002	22,849	51%	6,767	67,957
RICHLAND	11,043	4,163	38%	811	11,032
ROOSEVELT	10,964	5,859	53%	987	15,312
ROSEBUD	8,836	4,939	56%	1,074	13,895
SANDERS	12,157	4,633	38%	1,162	13,669
SHERIDAN	3,261	1,859	57%	550	5,554
SILVER BOW	35,180	22,220	63%	6,720	66,523
STILLWATER	9,888	4,057	41%	957	11,479
SWEET GRASS	3,684	1,574	43%	368	4,453
TETON	6,249	2,728	44%	675	7,729
TOOLE	4,686	2,212	47%	319	5,508
TREASURE	695	320	46%	63	993
VALLEY	7,359	3,299	45%	786	9,289
WHEATLAND	2,157	784	36%	169	2,226
WIBAUX	939	296	32%	51	830
YELLOWSTONE	162,990	84,009	52%	19,988	239,539
MONTANA	**1,080,577**	**573,585**	**53%**	**148,020**	**1,663,521**

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Carbon	2	4	1	5	5	7	2	
Carter	0	0	1	1	0	1	1	
Cascade	68	52	54	34	32	48	16	
Chouteau	9	4	3	5	9	7	-2	
Custer	5	6	0	1	2	6	4	
Daniels	0	0	1	1	0	2	2	
Dawson	3	2	4	3	4	3	-1	
Deer Lodge	9	2	6	6	6	14	8	
Fallon	0	2	2	1	4	0	-4	
Fergus	16	10	3	5	3	6	3	
Flathead	34	32	32	40	34	58	24	
Gallatin	73	76	88	130	142	130	-12	
Garfield	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	
Glacier	5	9	19	6	7	8	1	
Golden Valley	1	0	1	2	3	2	-1	
Granite	1	1	1	0	0	4	4	
Hill	3	10	7	9	8	8	0	
Jefferson	3	12	3	2	12	8	-4	
Judith Basin	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	
Lake	11	11	8	15	28	17	-11	
Lewis and Clark	34	28	30	29	32	25	-7	
Liberty	0	3	1	0	0	0	0	
Lincoln	6	11	12	7	6	13	7	
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McCone	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	
Meagher	6	0	1	2	2	0	-2	

Missoula	36	44	80	100	136	108	-28
Park	5	5	6	7	3	9	6
Phillips	0	3	1	0	2	1	-1
Powder River	2	0	0	1	0	1	1
Prairie	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Richland	5	4	0	8	10	14	4
Rosebud	0	3	4	2	3	1	-2
Sheridan	0	0	0	0	9	7	-2
Stillwater	1	1	0	2	3	4	1
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