September 2022 COVID-19 Update in Montana (as of 9/30/2022)

This report is a summary of COVID-19 activity in Montana in September of 2022. Data from September are analyzed based on information available as of September 30, 2022. 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 9/30/2022

	TOTAL	9/3-9/9	9/10-9/16	9/17-9/23	9/24-9/30	FOUR WEEK TOTAL	PERCENT CHANGE FROM PREVIOUS FOUR WEEKS**
REPORTED CASES	**311,320**	**1,165**	**1,266**	**1,467**	**1,231**	**5,129**	**-21%**
HOSPITALIZATIONS*	**13,330**	**68**	**54**	**69**	**83**	**68**	**-23%**
REPORTED DEATHS	**3,529**	**6**	**4**	**3**	**10**	**23**	**-12%**

*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 8/6-9/2 and 9/3-9/30.

Figure 1. COVID-19 Cases and Hospitalizations over Time – Montana, as of 9/30/2022

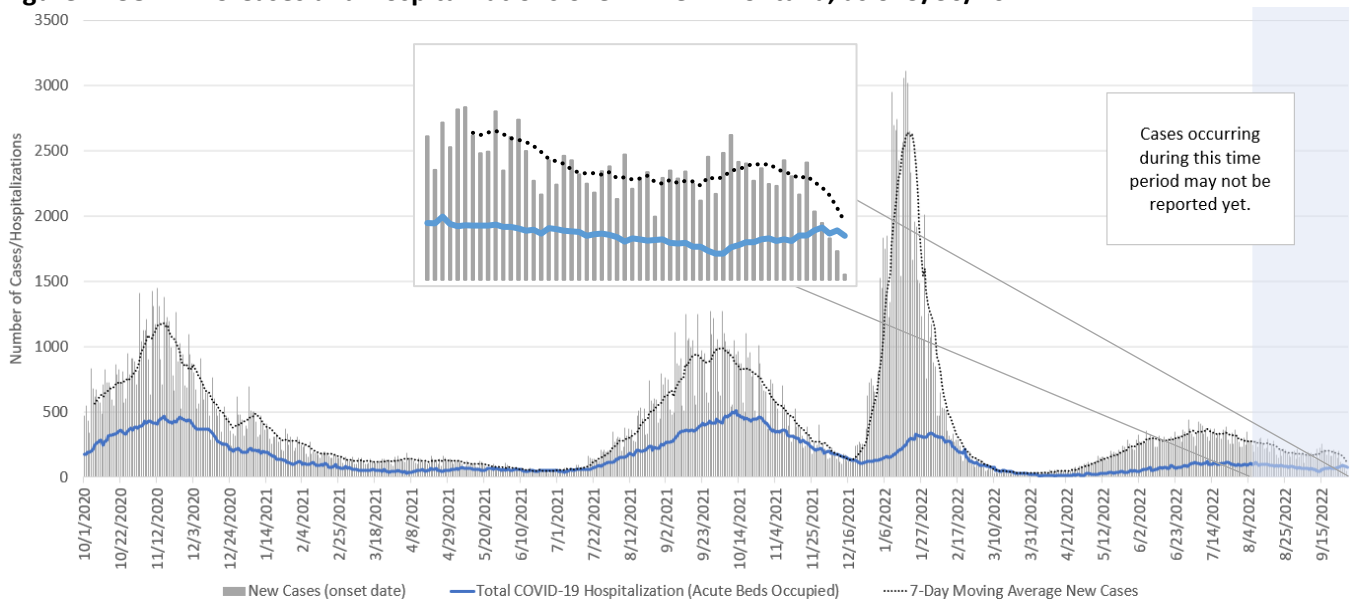


Figure 2. COVID-19 Deaths by Date of Death – Montana, 11/1/2020 – 9/30/2022

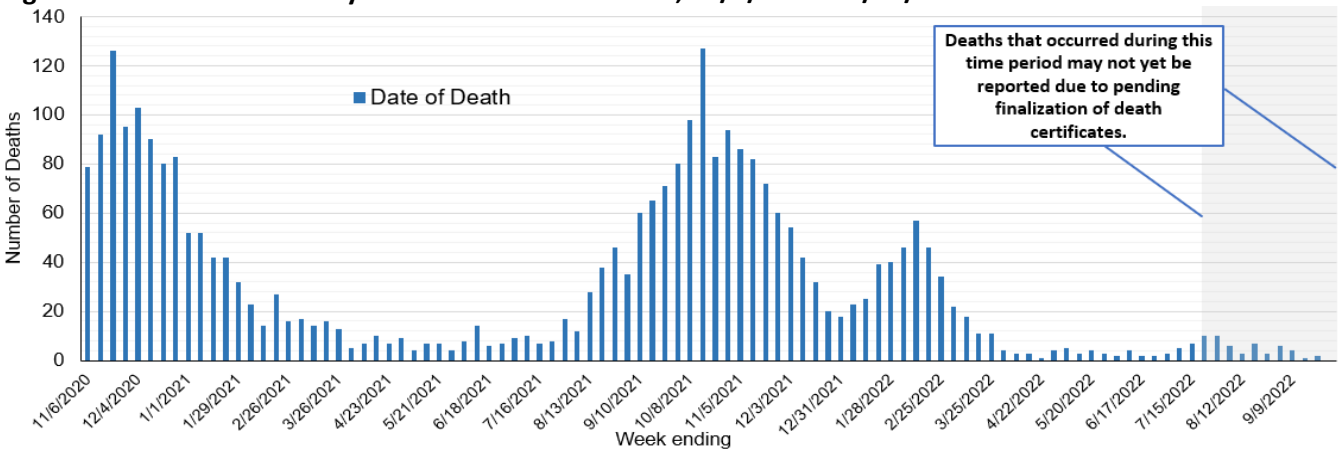
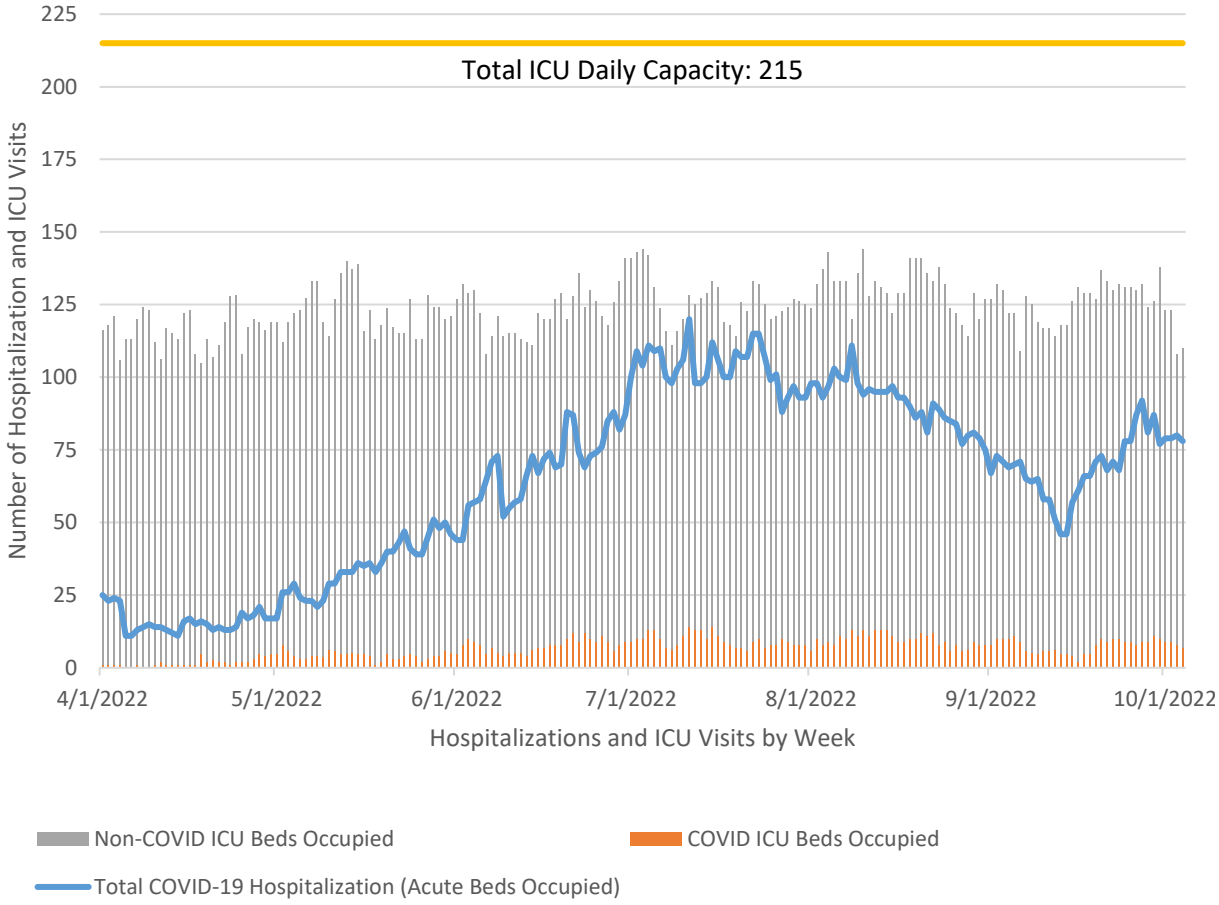


Figure 3: Status of Acute Care and ICU Beds – Hospitals in Montana, April-September 2022



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, 1,559,611 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 20,054 COVID vaccine doses administered in September, the vast majority were booster doses.

Table 2: COVID-19 Vaccine Doses Administered, 0+ years-old – Montana, as of 9/30/2022

	TOTAL	9/3-9/9	9/10-9/16	9/17-9/23	9/24-9/30*	FOUR WEEK TOTAL	PERCENT CHANGE FROM PREVIOUS FOUR WEEKS
TOTAL DOSES ADMINISTERED	**1,559,611**	2,427	5,244	6,247	**6,136**	**20,054**	**+120%**
COMPLETED PRIMARY SERIES	**575,598**	322	357	255	**204**	**1,138**	**-34%**

*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. There was no sequencing performed on specimens collected during the week ending September 30, 2022.

Omicron BA.5 (green, below) has been the dominant variant circulating in Montana, since July 2, 2022. There were 36 sequences reported to GISAID from positive samples collected and sequenced in September—34 (94%) BA.5, 1 (3%) BA.4, and 1 (3%) BA.1.

Figure 4. Number of COVID-19 samples sequenced by collection date, Montana 10/1/2022

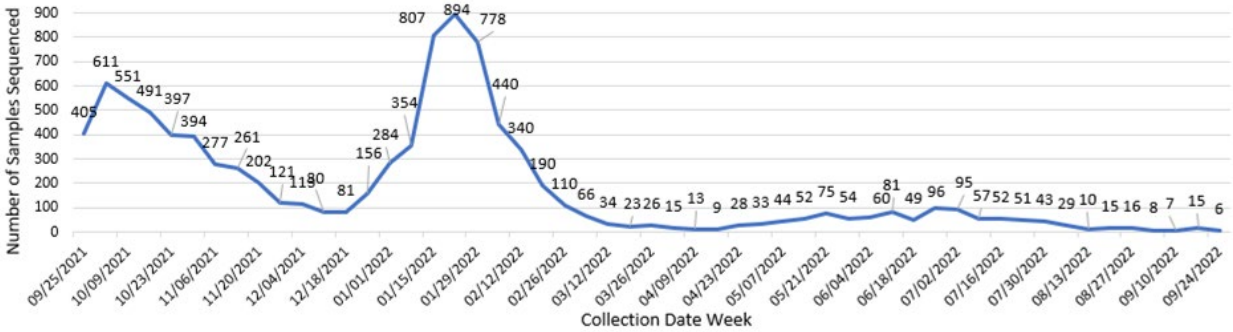
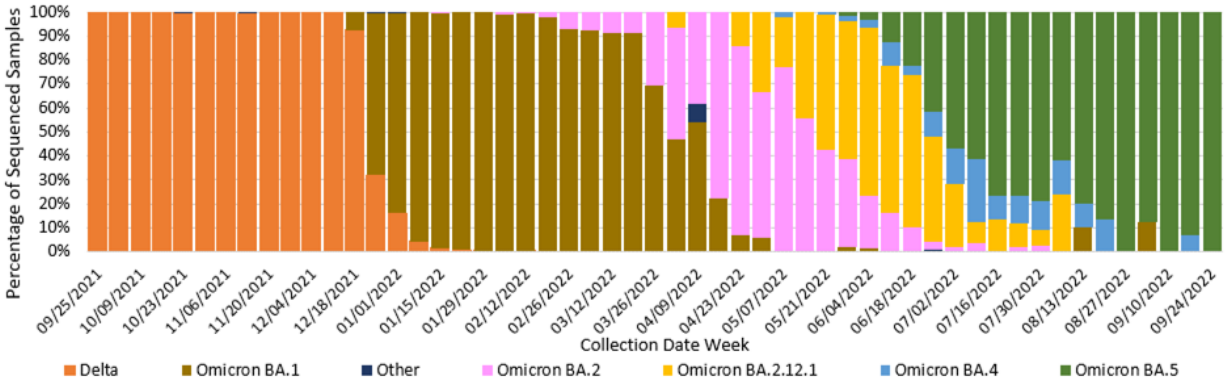


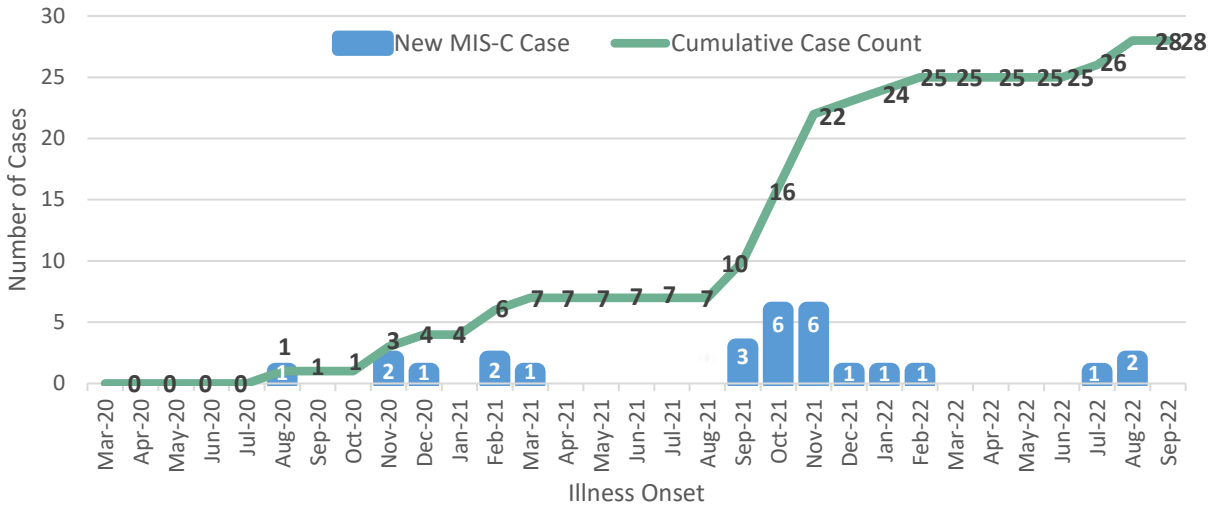
Figure 5. Percent of COVID-19 variants in sequenced samples by collection date, Montana 10/1/2022



Multisystem Inflammatory Syndrome in Children (MIS-C)

As of September 30, 2022, there have been a total of 28 cases of multisystem inflammatory syndrome in children, or MIS-C, reported in Montana. There has been 1 death. Ages range from less than 1 year to 20 years old; median is 7 years. Of the 28 cases, 13 are female and 15 are male. Most cases are non-Hispanic White. Cases are from 14 counties around Montana. The first case of MIS-C was reported in August 2020; 21 of the 28 cases have been reported since September 2021 (Figure 6).

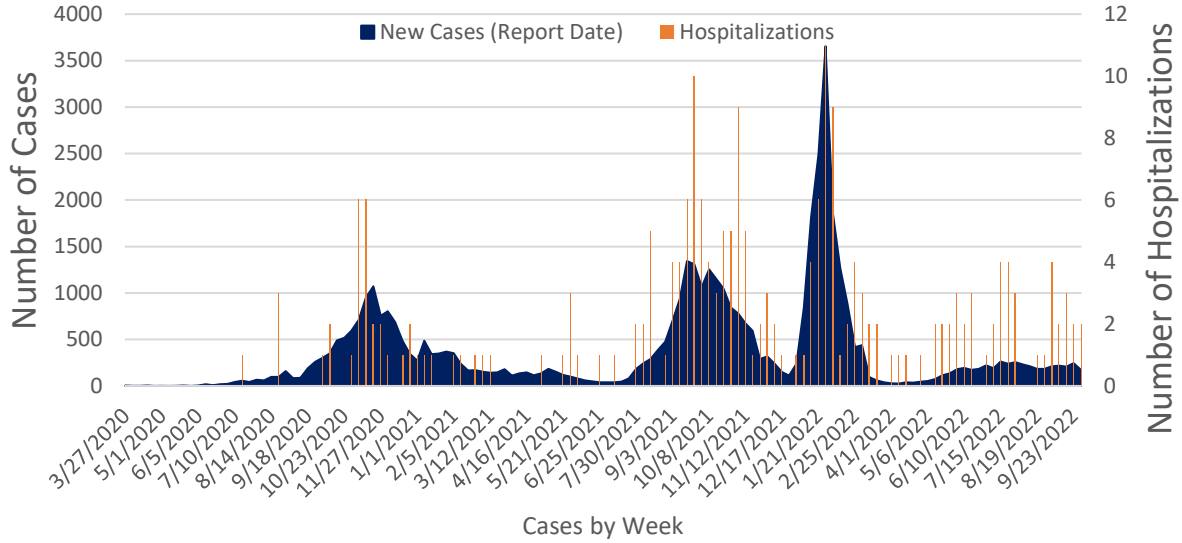
Figure 6. Montana MIS-C Cases by Month of Onset, March 2020 – September 2022



Cases and Hospitalizations Associated with COVID-19 Among Children

To date, there have been 47,199 children <18 years old in Montana diagnosed with COVID-19. Of those, 217 (<1%) have been hospitalized. Case rates among children follow a similar pattern to COVID-19 cases among all age groups (see Figure 1 for comparison) and increased sharply during the recent Omicron surge (Figure 7). There were 845 cases of COVID-19 in children reported between September 3-September 30, 2022, which is a 7% increase in cases among that age group compared to the four weeks prior. Of the 845 cases, 9 (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 – September 30, 2022, Children <18



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

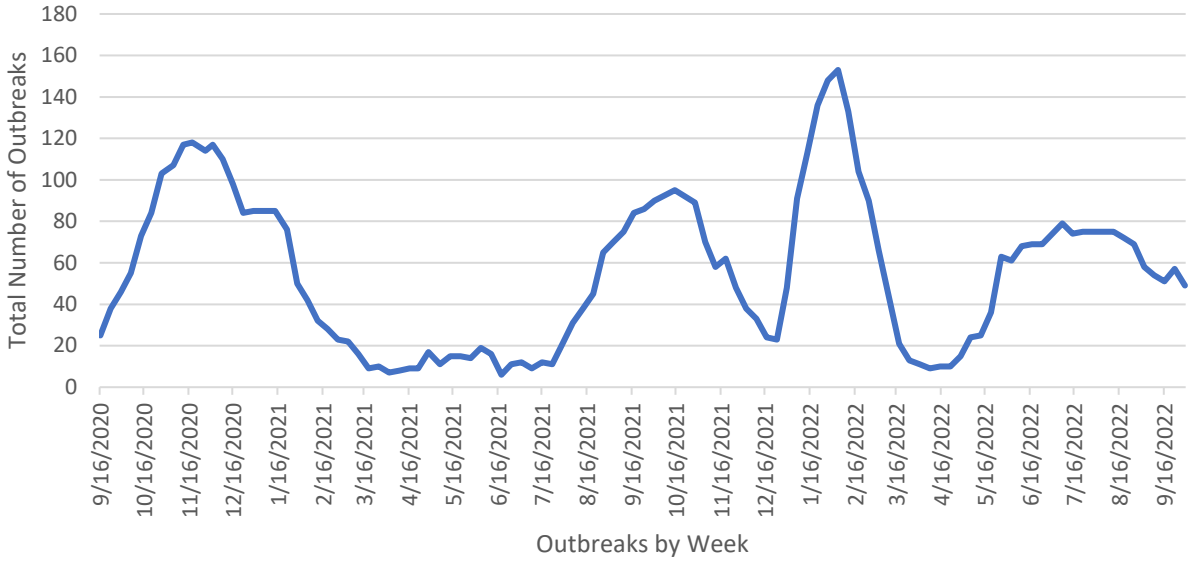
There are 71 long-term care facilities (LTCFs) and 211 assisted living facilities (ALFs) in Montana. As of September 30, 2022, there have been 13,705 cases associated with ALFs and LTCFs since the beginning of the pandemic, which comprises 4% of the total number of COVID-19 cases Montana has reported. There have been 672 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, September 3-September 30, 2022

	9/3-9/9	9/10-9/16	9/17-9/23	9/24-9/30
REPORTED CASES	**119**	**96**	**80**	**74**
REPORTED DEATHS	**1**	**1**	**0**	**1**
ACTIVE OUTBREAKS	**54**	**51**	**57**	**49**

Figure 8. Montana ALF and LTCF Outbreaks by Week, September 2020-September 2022



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

County	26 Aug	2 Sep	9 Sep	16 Sep	23 Sep	30 Sep	Change from Previous Week	Trendline
Beaverhead	2	8	8	8	11	5	-6	
Big Horn	23	18	8	7	4	17	13	
Blaine	11	21	6	13	17	16	-1	
Broadwater	9	6	9	7	7	3	-4	
Carbon	13	3	12	8	8	4	-4	
Carter	1	0	1	0	1	0	-1	
Cascade	287	128	128	122	109	78	-31	
Chouteau	10	1	9	6	34	17	-17	
Custer	11	29	16	8	19	16	-3	
Daniels	1	0	0	1	0	4	4	
Dawson	5	7	3	5	5	5	0	
Deer Lodge	7	9	17	26	25	24	-1	
Fallon	0	7	1	4	4	1	-3	
Fergus	38	20	9	2	9	3	-6	
Flathead	152	111	73	126	133	107	-26	
Gallatin	137	137	115	146	206	91	-115	
Garfield	0	0	0	0	0	6	6	
Glacier	43	14	20	14	40	8	-32	
Golden Valley	0	1	0	0	0	1	1	
Granite	2	0	4	2	6	4	-2	
Hill	34	18	11	15	15	14	-1	
Jefferson	18	4	6	12	13	9	-4	
Judith Basin	3	1	1	2	1	0	-1	
Lake	37	32	46	39	65	53	-12	
Lewis and Clark	90	93	99	105	100	108	8	
Liberty	7	4	2	1	2	11	9	
Lincoln	17	35	20	22	17	41	24	
Madison	14	14	11	19	24	11	-13	
McCone	7	0	2	1	1	0	-1	
Meagher	6	4	12	6	7	6	-1	

Missoula	144	154	144	184	194	196	2	
Park	15	14	7	9	23	14	-9	
Phillips	5	1	0	1	0	2	2	
Powder River	2	1	2	1	0	0	0	
Prairie	1	4	0	0	0	0	0	
Richland	5	13	9	17	5	11	6	
Rosebud	47	6	6	4	4	9	5	
Sheridan	8	7	7	7	3	6	3	
Stillwater	5	6	6	8	8	7	-1	
Teton	6	12	5	4	5	10	5	
Treasure	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	
Wheatland	4	1	3	0	0	2	2	
Yellowstone	306	234	203	178	195	158	-37	
MONTANA	**1669**	**1324**	**1165**	**1266**	**1467**	**1231**	**-236**	

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	Total Doses Administered
BEAVERHEAD	9,483	5,182	55%	13,475
BIG HORN	13,063	7,678	59%	19,500
BLAINE	6,568	3,449	53%	9,189
BROADWATER	6,444	2,058	32%	5,661
CARBON	10,921	5,242	48%	14,176
CARTER	1,235	363	29%	940
CASCADE	81,346	39,197	48%	103,470
CHOUTEAU	5,699	2,121	37%	5,908
CUSTER	11,292	4,946	44%	12,888
DANIELS	1,638	712	43%	1,845
DAWSON	8,555	3,300	39%	8,717
DEER LODGE	9,204	5,939	65%	16,274
FALLON	2,826	1,014	36%	2,631
FERGUS	11,104	5,292	48%	14,442
FLATHEAD	105,851	46,613	44%	127,067
GALLATIN	116,806	71,905	62%	197,609
GARFIELD	1,268	299	24%	695
GLACIER	13,594	8,150	60%	22,803
GOLDEN VALLEY	827	369	45%	953
GRANITE	3,317	1,296	39%	3,539
HILL	16,358	9,270	57%	23,602
JEFFERSON	12,360	6,317	51%	17,565
JUDITH BASIN	1,994	767	38%	2,034
LAKE	30,986	18,326	59%	50,427
LEWIS & CLARK	70,229	40,985	58%	115,925
LIBERTY	2,369	843	36%	2,216
LINCOLN	20,343	8,558	42%	23,410
MADISON	8,959	4,025	45%	10,981
MCCONE	1,648	429	26%	1,174
MEAGHER	1,831	977	53%	2,626
MINERAL	4,544	2,430	53%	6,285
MISSOULA	121,630	78,355	64%	216,275
MUSSELSHELL	4,669	1,651	35%	4,187
PARK	16,760	9,804	58%	26,945
PETROLEUM	500	155	31%	411
PHILLIPS	3,919	1,797	46%	4,562
PONDERA	5,782	3,667	63%	8,974
POWDER RIVER	1,681	467	28%	1,195
POWELL	6,817	4,004	59%	10,053
PRAIRIE	1,067	450	42%	1,220
RAVALLI	45,002	22,692	50%	62,435
RICHLAND	11,043	4,355	39%	10,721
ROOSEVELT	10,964	5,795	53%	14,286
ROSEBUD	8,836	4,952	56%	12,939
SANDERS	12,157	4,568	38%	12,549
SHERIDAN	3,261	1,867	57%	5,134
SILVER BOW	35,180	22,177	63%	61,330
STILLWATER	9,888	4,069	41%	10,661
SWEET GRASS	3,684	1,570	43%	4,137
TETON	6,249	2,715	43%	7,219
TOOLE	4,686	2,213	47%	5,255
TREASURE	695	318	46%	942
VALLEY	7,359	3,313	45%	8,676
WHEATLAND	2,157	774	36%	2,063
WIBAUX	939	312	33%	838
YELLOWSTONE	162,990	85,506	52%	228,577
MONTANA	**1,080,577**	**575,598**	**53%**	**1,559,611**