January 4, 2021

COVID-19

BY THE NUMBERS: COVID-19 IN MONTANA & SURROUNDING AREAS

12 /29/2020 through 1/04/2021

204 ▼ Down from 223

COVID-19 Hospitalizations
7 Day Average

Total Deaths / Recovered Cases
1/4/2021

SD - 1,513 / 93,031
ID - 1,448 / 60,164
ND - 1,310 / 89,879
MT - 975 / 76,633
WY - 438 / 43,068

Ranked by highest # of total deaths

New Daily Cases
7 Day Average (Ranked)

1. WA - 1,999   4. **MT - 453**
2. ID - 1,120   5. WY - 369
3. SD - 453   6. ND - 270

5,223 ▼ down from 6,538

Active Daily Cases
7 Day Average

8 ▲ Up from 7

Daily Death Rate
7 Day Average

MT Active Cases

July 6 - Jan. 4, 2021
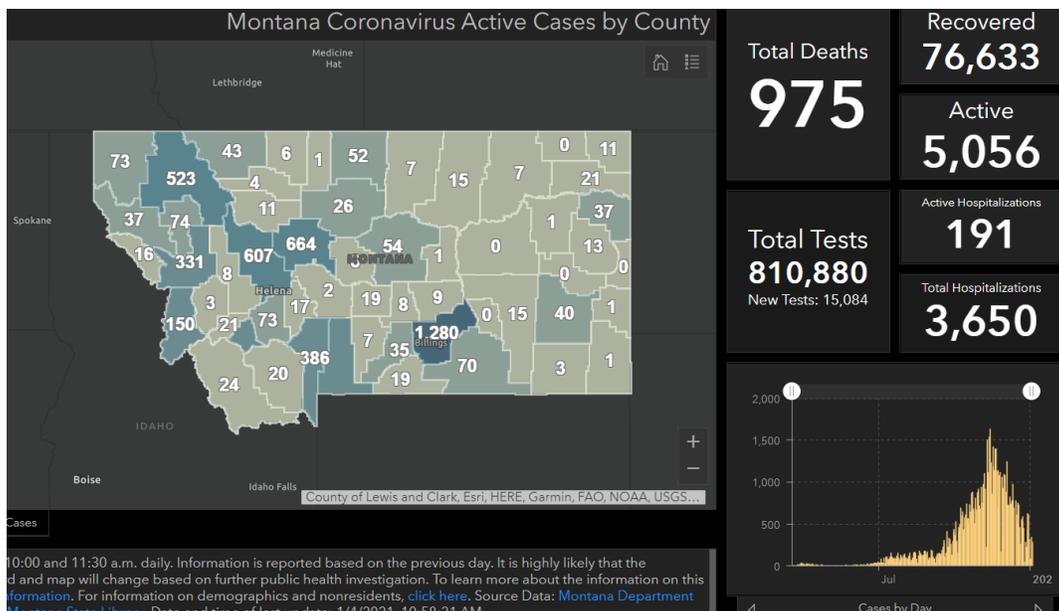
Source: Montana COVID-19 Dashboard (Updated 10:00 a.m.)

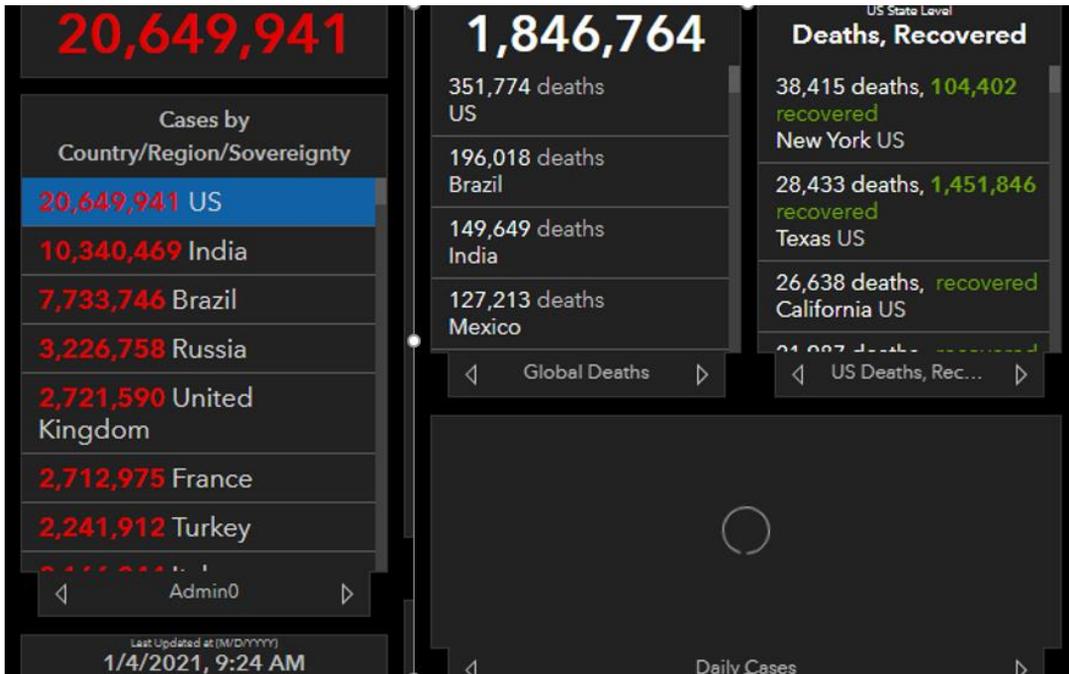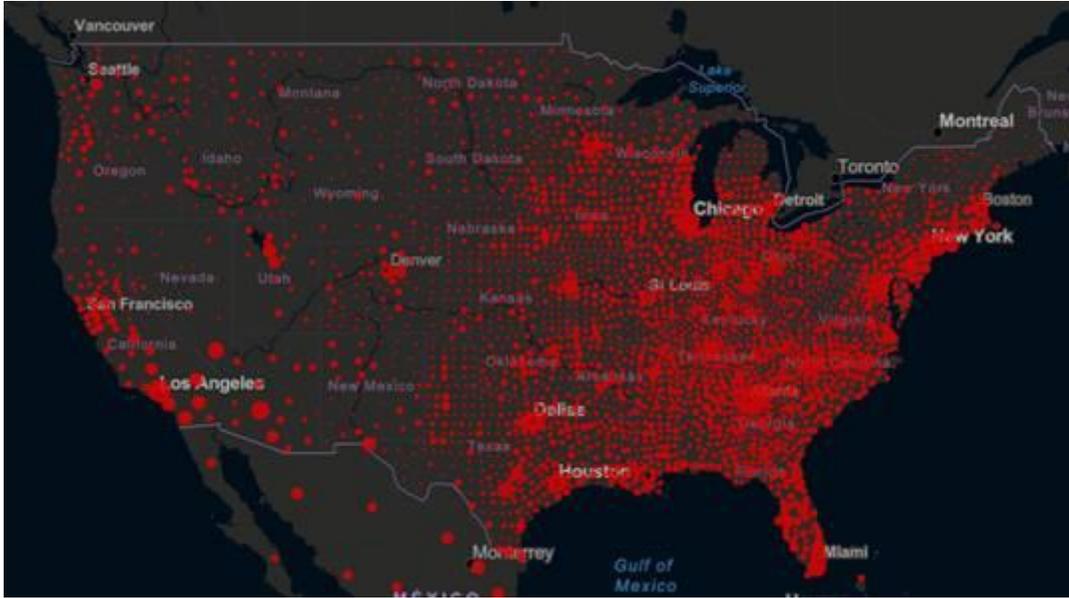| REPORTED CASES	
Montana *New in last 6 days: 2,238 (+less than 1% avg. growth per day)*	**82,664**

Active Cases: 5,056 (-335) *Recovered: 76,633 (+2,537)* *Hospitalizations, Total: 3,650 (+136)* *Hospitalizations, Active: 191 (-27)* *Deaths: 975 (Last 6 days: +36)* Source: Montana COVID-19 Dashboard (Updated 10:00 a.m.)	
United States *New in last 6 days: 1,314,966 (+1% avg. growth per day)* Source: Johns Hopkins CSSE Global Outbreak Dashboard	**20,649,941**
WA	**255,396**
ID	**142,507**
WY	**44,875**
ND	**93,240**
SD	**100,532**

See the latest Montana reports on *COVID-19 in Schools*, *COVID-19 in LTC and Assisted Living*,
***Hospital Occupancy and Capacity* and the latest *State COVID-19 Epi Profile*.**
Source: State of Montana DPHHS COVID-19 Demographics Webpage

OPERATIONS

Updated COVID-19 vaccination distribution plan released. On Thursday, December 31, 2020 former Governor Bullock announced the state's COVID-19 vaccine distribution plan was updated to incorporate the new federal recommendations for allocation to critical groups in Montana and an estimated timeline.

The [updated plan](#) outlines an estimated timeline for vaccine distribution in Phases 1a, 1b, 1c and then the last phase (Phase 2) when vaccines are expected to available to all Montanans late spring or early summer 2021.

Montana has launched Phase 1a that targets frontline healthcare workers and staff and residents of long-term care facilities. With a total of 16,990 healthcare personnel in Montana having now received their first vaccination dose, this phase has been expanded to include additional healthcare workers with direct patient contact. See the [updated plan](#) and [full press release](#).

Updated analysis of COVID-19 cases in Montana. Montana DPHHS has released an updated epidemiological review of COVID-19 cases in the state. The [report](#) is based on COVID-19 case information available as of December 25.

PLANNING

HHS issues updated COVID-19 data reporting guidance. HHS on Nov. 9 updated its [guidance to hospitals](#) on the reporting of COVID-19-related data. The guidance includes two key changes stemming from the CMS' Dec. 2 [interim final rule](#) expanding the requirement for hospitals to report COVID-19 data. Influenza data fields will be mandatory starting on Friday, December 18. Therapeutic data fields are now optional, but will likely be mandatory beginning on Friday, January 8.

HHS data reporting platform - Single data entry fulfills state and federal requirements. MHA has purchased a new HHS Data Reporting Platform with COVID-19 grant funding. This creates a single, secure data entry point to fulfill both state and federal requirements, including state PPE resource allocation and HHS Teletracking mandates. This single-entry system is especially critical with CMS' rules that require such reporting as a Condition of Participation for Medicare and Medicaid. Hospitals will face possible termination of Medicare and Medicaid payments if unable to correct reporting deficiencies. See the complete details on the new platform [here](#).

As of September 8, 2020 hospitals should utilize EMResource for statewide bed availability, PPE and Remdisivir data, as well as, all TeleTracking data points, including HHS lab testing. Upon entering HHS data into EMResource, Juvare will automatically upload data to TeleTracking on behalf of your facility daily. Facilities may continue entering their own data into TeleTracking if they choose. All

laboratories conducting COVID-19 testing and reporting patient-specific results – including hospital labs, nursing homes, and other facilities conducting testing for COVID-19 – will be required to comply. If a laboratory does not report the required information, CMS will impose a civil monetary penalty in the amount of $1,000 a day for the first day, and $500 for each subsequent day.

As of October 1, 2020 long-term care facilities must report all PPE and bed reporting to EMResources. The previous weekly is inactive on October 1, 2020. Facilities that need assistance should email hppcoordinators@mtha.org.

For questions, please contact your Regional Coordinator.

LOGISTICS

State of Montana launches COVID-19 crisis counseling call center. The State of Montana has received a FEMA/SAMHSA disaster relief grant to provide COVID-19 crisis counseling to Montanans facing the mental health impacts of this pandemic. Montana Crisis Recovery is free and anonymous support available to all Montanans. Please share the flyer with staff, other first responders, family and friends. This program is managed by the Addictive and Mental Disorders Division of the Department of Public Health and Human Services.

Submit PPE needs to DES coordinator in order to ensure allocation. Until further notice, healthcare organizations MUST submit needs to their local DES coordinator in order to receive an allocation of emergency PPE.

FINANCE AND ADMINISTRATION

CMS COVID-19 vaccines coding and billing resources. During the COVID-19 Public Health Emergency (PHE), Medicare will cover and pay for the administration of the Moderna and Phizer COVID-19 vaccines (when furnished consistent with the EUA). Review CMS' updated payment and HCPCS Level I CPT code structure for specific COVID-19 vaccine information. Only bill for the vaccine administration codes when you submit claims to Medicare; don't include the vaccine product codes when the vaccines are free. For more information on COVID-19 vaccine coding and billing, see CMS' COVID-19 Provider Toolkit and COVID-19 FAQs.

CMS announces Acute Hospital Care At Home program. CMS on Nov. 25 announced the Acute Hospital Care At Home program for Medicare patients. The

program expands on the successful Hospital Without Walls program authorized in March. CMS approved waivers for six health systems with extensive experience providing acute hospital care at home to participate immediately. Other hospitals and health systems may submit a waiver request online.

PYA releases article on PRF take-aways from Coronavirus Response and Relief Supplemental Appropriations Act, 2021. On Sunday, Dec. 27, the Coronavirus Response and Relief Supplemental Appropriations Act, 2021 was signed into law. In 5600+ pages, the Act includes material changes to aspects of the CARES Act Provider Relief Fund (PRF), the Payroll Protection Program (PPP), the 2021 Medicare Physician Fee Schedule, and out-of-network billing. PYA has outlined the key provisions that recipients of PRF distributions should take into consideration. Read the article here.

COMMUNICATIONS

CDC updates COVID-19 Vaccination Communication Toolkit. The CDC recently updated its COVID-19 Vaccination Communication Toolkit for medical centers, clinics, and clinicians. Resources include social media resources, videos and FAQs as well as other digital and print resources.

Call recordings and webinar playbacks. Missed a call or webinar promoted in MHA's daily COVID-19 Call & Webinar Alert? Many are recorded, and are posted here once available.

COVID-19 Resource Library. MHA has built a library of helpful resources and sample material from other hospitals, healthcare organizations and states in their response to COVID-19.

HHS hospital-specific COVID-19 questions: HospitalCOVID19@hhs.gov

SITREP Archive. Daily Situation Reports archived here.

State of Montana COVID-19 Hotline: 1-888-333-0461
Montanans can also email questions to covid19info@mt.gov. State public health officials will be responding to inquiries from 8 a.m. to 5 p.m. Monday to Friday.

MHA Incident Management Team: esf8@mtha.org

REFERENCE LINKS

GENERAL

Contact lists and general sources of information on a wide range of COVID-19-related issues

MHA COVID-19 General Resources page

CLINICAL OPERATIONS

Resources on infection prevention and control, EMS operations, telehealth operations and care for specific populations from federal and state resources

MHA COVID-19 Clinical Operations page

LONG-TERM CARE & RETIREMENT COMMUNITIES

CDC and CMS resources specific to maintaining safe conditions in long-term care and retirement communities

MHA COVID-19 Long-Term Care & Retirement Communities page

SUPPLY CHAIN RESOURCES

Resources from AHRMM, AHA, Intalere, CDC and other sources on sourcing, conserving and properly using PPE

MHA COVID-19 Supply Chain Resources page

WORKFORCE PROTECTION & SUPPORT

MT DLI, CDC, OSHA and NIH toolkits, FAQs and other resources to protect employees and allow staff to return to work

MHA COVID-19 Workforce Protection & Support page

COMMUNITY MITIGATION STRATEGIES

CDC resources on community mitigation strategies

MHA COVID-19 Community Mitigation Strategies page

FINANCE & ADMINISTRATION

Guidance, fact sheets and other resources on regulatory waivers and flexibilities in addition to catalogued financing information related to the CARES Act and other COVID-19 funding assistance

MHA COVID-19 Finance & Administration page

COMMUNICATIONS

Archive of MHA COVID-19 related communications as well as sample communications documents, toolkits and other resources from state and national levels

MHA COVID-19 Communications page

TESTING

FAQs, recommendations and other CDC, FDA and MT DPHHS resources related to COVID-19 testing

MHA COVID-19 Testing page

PLANNING

Best practices and planning documents from CDC, facilities on the front lines and MT DPHHS

MHA COVID-19 Planning page

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