

# SITREP



Montana Hospital Association - Situation Report

March 8, 2021

## COVID-19

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

03/02/2021 through 03/08/2021

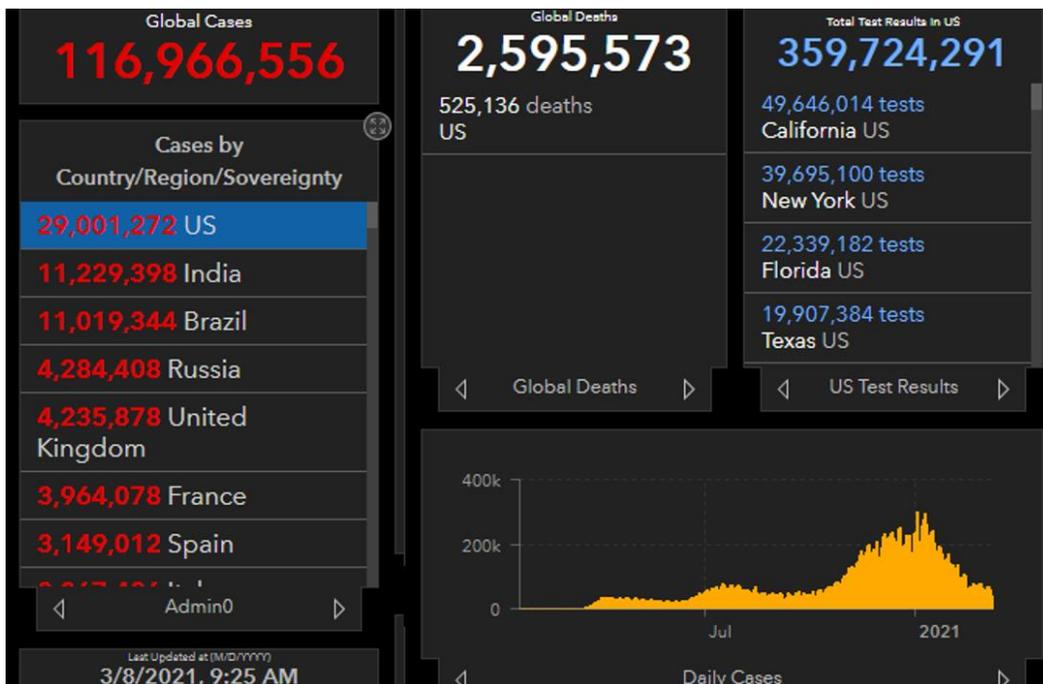
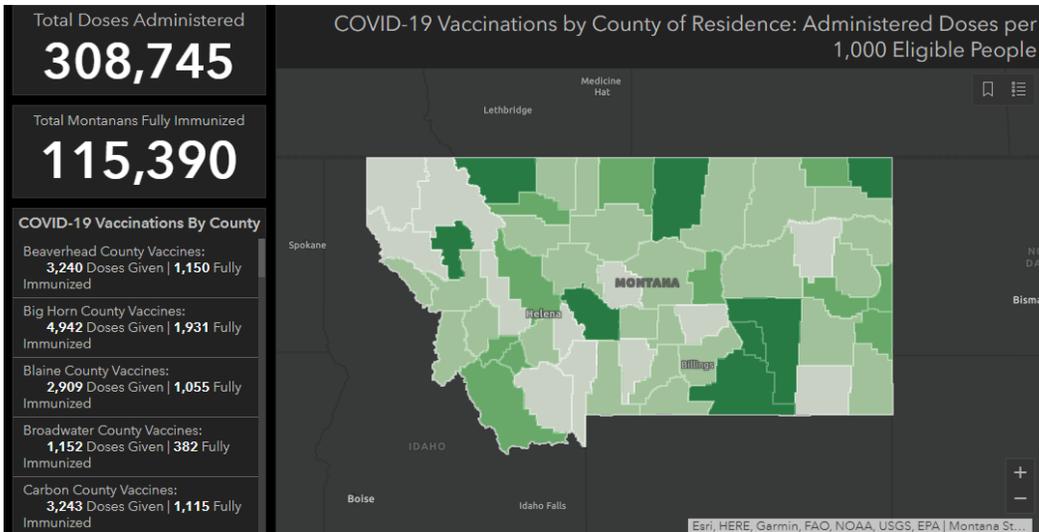
<p><b>68</b> ▼ Down from 77</p> <p><b>COVID-19 Hospitalizations</b> 7 Day Average</p>	<p><b>Total Deaths / Recovered Cases</b> <b>3/7/2021</b></p> <p>SD - 1,900 / 113,589 ID - 1,879 / 172,931 ND - 1,479 / 100,391 <b>MT - 1,381 / 100,959</b> WY - 682 / 54,764</p> <p>Ranked by highest # of total deaths</p>	<p><b>New Daily Cases</b> <b>7 Day Average</b> <b>Ranking in Region</b></p> <p>1. WA - 678      4. <b>MT - 144</b> 2. ID - 257      5. ND - 83 3. SD - 166      6. WY - 74*</p> <p>*5 Day Average (no data Mar. 6-7)</p>
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<p><b>1,640</b> ▼ Down from 1,843</p> <p><b>Active Daily Cases</b> 7 Day Average</p>	<p><b>3</b> ▲ Up from 2</p> <p><b>Daily Death Rate</b> 7 Day Average</p>	<p><b>MT Active Cases</b></p> <p>07/06/2020 - 03/08/2021</p>
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Source: [Montana COVID-19 Dashboard](#) (Updated 10:00 a.m.)

REPORTED CASES	
<p><b>Montana</b></p> <p><i>New last 7 days: 956 (+less than 0.5% avg. growth per day)</i></p> <p><i>Active Cases: 1,601 (-8)</i></p> <p><i>Recovered: 97,977 (+940)</i></p> <p><i>Hospitalizations, Total: 4,630 (+46)</i></p> <p><i>Hospitalizations, Active: 63 (-5)</i></p>	<p><b>100,959</b></p>





## OPERATIONS

**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 February 26.

**Researchers examine a few delayed skin reactions after Moderna vaccine.** A [research letter](#) published last week in the New England Journal of Medicine looks at delayed injection-site skin reactions to the Moderna COVID-19 vaccine four to

11 days after 12 people received the first dose. Delayed injection-site reactions occurred in 0.8% of the 30,420 participants in a phase 3 clinical trial of the vaccine, the study notes. The authors hope the letter encourages additional reporting of delayed reactions in order to promote better understanding of reactions that do occur and better acceptance of the vaccines by the public.

**CDC call March 11 on using telehealth for COVID-19 vaccine planning and monitoring.** The CDC will host a March 11 [call for clinicians](#) on using telehealth to augment COVID-19 vaccine planning and monitoring. CDC will post slides on the webpage before the call and a recording a few hours after it ends for those unable to attend.

**U.S. to purchase at least 100K doses of Lilly antibody cocktail.** The federal government has agreed to purchase at least 100,000 doses of the combination monoclonal antibody therapy bamlanivimab and etesevimab, Eli Lilly and Company has [announced](#). The FDA last month issued an [EUA](#) to administer the antibodies together to patients with mild-to-moderate COVID-19 at high risk for progressing to severe disease but not hospitalized or on oxygen therapy.

**Study: COVID-19 convalescent plasma unlikely to benefit certain ED patients.** The National Institutes of Health has [halted a clinical trial](#) evaluating the effectiveness of COVID-19 convalescent plasma in emergency department patients with mild-to-moderate COVID-19 symptoms and at least one risk factor for severe COVID-19 after an independent board concluded from the data that the treatment was unlikely to help such patients. Forty-seven U.S. hospital EDs were participating in the study, which found no significant difference in outcomes for participants who received COVID-19 convalescent plasma or a placebo.

## PLANNING

**HHS requests hospital data on COVID-19 vaccinations.** HHS' latest data reporting guidance released on Tuesday, Jan. 12 [here](#).

**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](mailto:hppcoordinators@mtha.org).

For questions, please contact your [Regional Coordinator](#).

## LOGISTICS

**FDA: Some respirators, other devices displaying misleading certificates.** The FDA has [called on](#) 25 firms to stop producing and issuing so-called “FDA registration certificates” to mask, respirator, face shield and other medical device makers and distributors that create the impression that FDA has approved or authorized their products. FDA does not issue registration certificates to device makers that [register or list](#) their products with the agency. Healthcare providers can check FDA’s [EUA lists](#) and [medical device databases](#) for authorized or approved devices, and [report](#) suspected misuse of registration certificates.

**Federally funded telemedicine program offers hospitals critical care support.** The National Emergency Tele-Critical Care Network offers hospitals and health systems needing clinical support to care for seriously ill COVID-19 patients free telehealth access to critical care physicians, nurses and other clinical experts. NETCCN received funding from the CARES Act to expand access to its virtual

critical care network through enabled mobile devices such as cell phones, tablets and computers. For more information and to request support, visit the [NETCCN website](#).

**Hackers target on-premises Microsoft Exchange server vulnerabilities.** Cyber attackers are using Microsoft Exchange Server vulnerabilities to access Exchange server email accounts on an organization's premises and install malware to facilitate long-term access to victim environments, the Microsoft Threat Intelligence Center [announced](#) last week. It suspects a potentially state-sponsored group out of China called HAFNIUM is behind the campaign. According to Microsoft, Exchange Online is not affected.

John Riggi, AHA senior advisor for cybersecurity and risk, said, "This is another example, like the SolarWinds breach, of what is believed to be a sophisticated nation-state-supported actor seeking to compromise ubiquitous and fundamental third-party software services as a means for widespread penetration of entire sectors of the U.S. economy. It is also important to note for the healthcare sector that the HAFNIUM cyber adversary is specifically targeting infectious disease research, among other data. This is consistent with documented criminal cases of the Chinese government's aggressive pursuit of U.S. medical research and innovation."

For more information on nation-state cyber threats targeting healthcare or other cyber issues, contact Riggi at [jriggi@aha.org](mailto:jriggi@aha.org).

**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.

## COMMUNICATIONS

**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](mailto: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](mailto: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](mailto: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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