

# SITREP



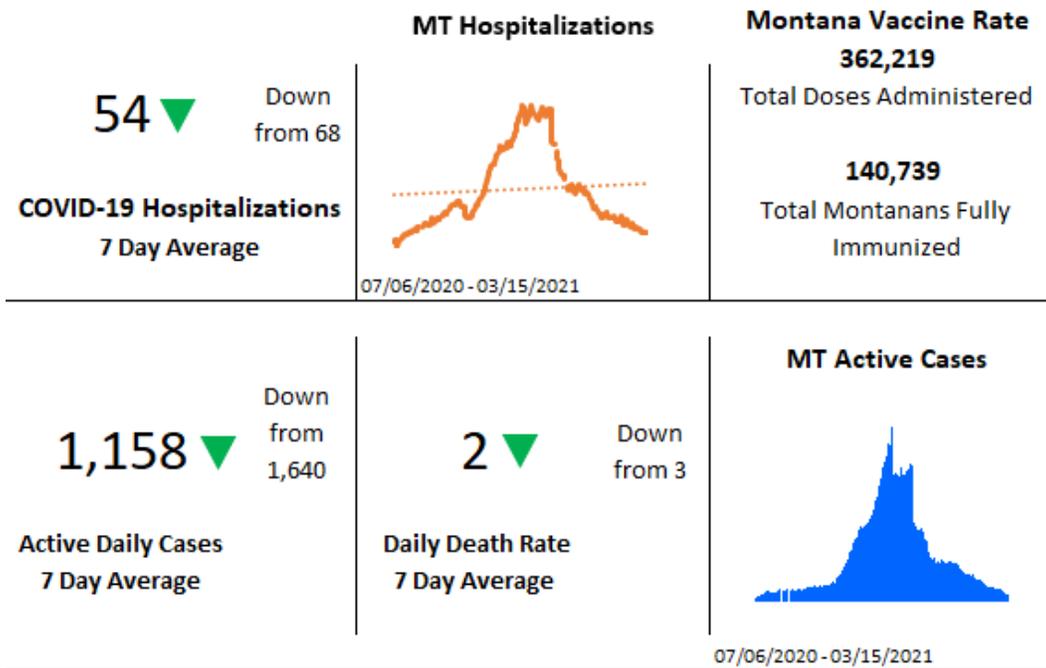
Montana Hospital Association - Situation Report

March 15, 2021

## COVID-19

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

03 /09/2021 through 03/15/2021



\*Previous sections "Total Deaths/Recovered Cases" and "New Daily Cases 7 Day Average Ranking in Region" for Montana and four surrounding states have been replaced with "Montana Vaccine Rate" and "MT Hospitalizations Graph" sections due to changes in available data.

Source: [Montana COVID-19 Dashboard](#) (Updated 10:00 a.m.)

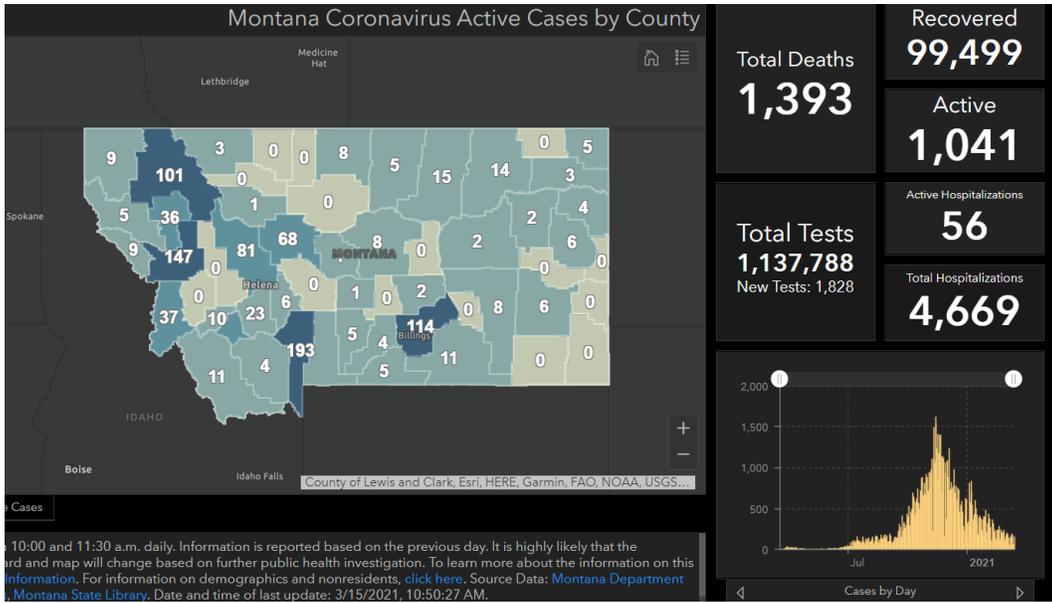
REPORTED CASES	
<p><b>Montana</b></p> <p><i>New last 7 days: 974 (+less than 0.5% avg. growth per day)</i></p> <p><i>Active Cases: 1,041 (-560)</i></p>	<p><b>101,933</b></p>

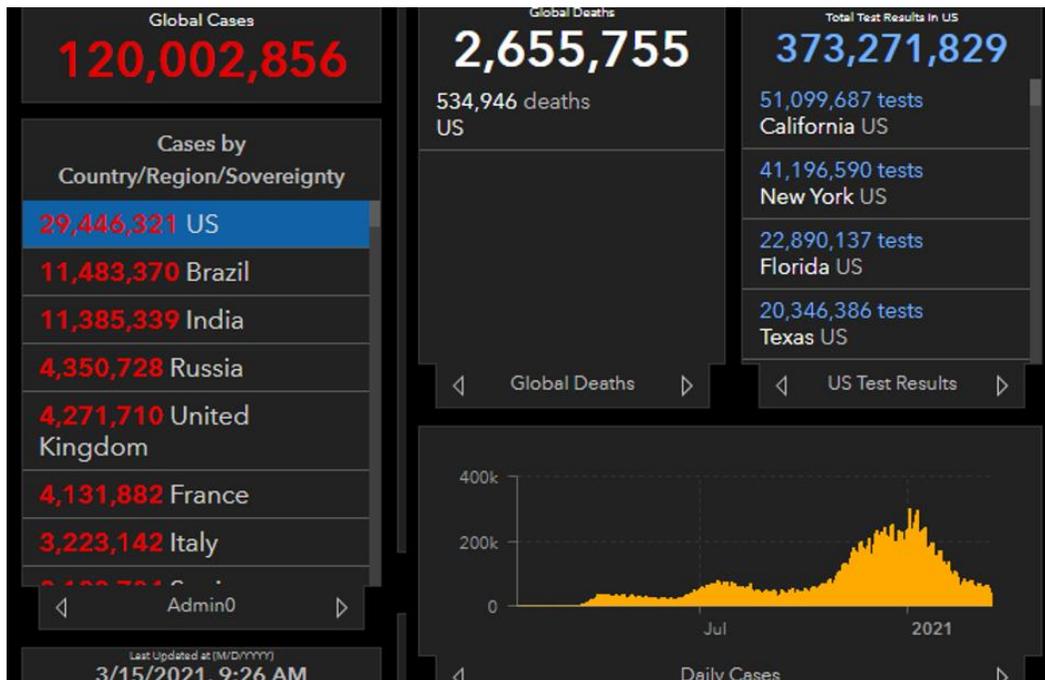
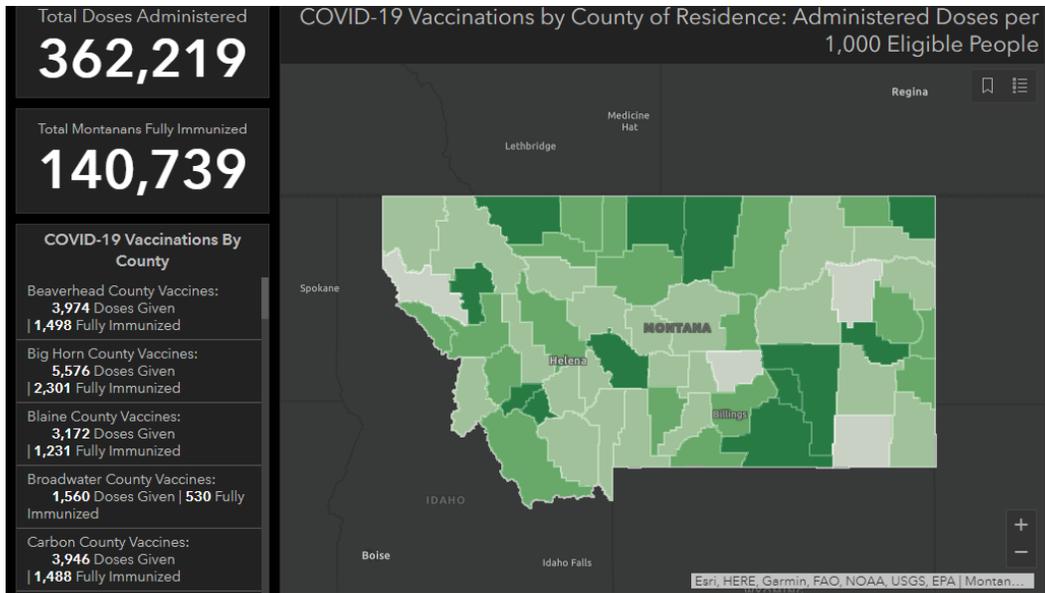
<b>Recovered: 99,499 (+1,522)</b> <b>Hospitalizations, Total: 4,669 (+39)</b> <b>Hospitalizations, Active: 56 (-7)</b> <b>Deaths: 1,393 (last 7 days: +12)</b> Source: <a href="#">Montana COVID-19 Dashboard</a> (Updated 10:00 a.m.)	
<b>United States</b> <b>New last 7 days: 445,049 (+less than 0.5% avg. growth per day)</b> Source: <a href="#">Johns Hopkins CSSE Global Outbreak Dashboard</a>	<b>29,446,321</b>
<b>WA</b>	<b>349,425</b>
<b>ID</b>	<b>175,236</b>
<b>WY</b>	<b>55,163</b>
<b>ND</b>	<b>100,976</b>
<b>SD</b>	<b>114,623</b>

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](#)





**President signs \$1.9 trillion COVID-19 relief bill into law; view AHA summary.**

Last week President Biden signed into law the American Rescue Plan Act of 2021, a \$1.9 trillion COVID-19 relief package, which includes a number of provisions that affect hospitals and health systems.

The legislation includes provisions to bolster the nation's COVID-19 healthcare response with additional resources for vaccines, treatment, PPE, testing, contact

tracing and workforce development; additional new funding for rural hospitals and healthcare providers for COVID-19 relief; increased healthcare coverage through Medicaid and federal subsidies for insurance marketplaces and COBRA; and changes to the Medicare wage index; among other provisions. See the AHA summary [here](#).

## OPERATIONS

**Administration aims to open COVID-19 vaccination eligibility to all U.S. adults by May 1.** President Biden last week [directed](#) states, tribes and territories to make all adults eligible for COVID-19 vaccination by May 1. “That doesn’t mean everyone’s going to have that shot immediately, but it means you’ll be able to get in line beginning May 1,” he said.

To help enable more vaccinations, the administration [amended](#) its declaration providing liability protection under the PREP Act to include additional healthcare professionals and trainees authorized to administer COVID-19 vaccines. It also [invited](#) an additional 700 federally qualified health centers to join the vaccine program, and plans to double the number of mass vaccination centers and pharmacies administering vaccines, and deploy more active duty troops to support vaccination efforts.

**CDC interim guidelines loosen gathering restriction for fully vaccinated individuals.** The CDC last week released [interim guidelines](#) for fully vaccinated individuals’ social practices. CDC said that those who are fully vaccinated — whether the two doses required by the Pfizer and Moderna vaccines, or the single Johnson & Johnson dose — may eschew masks or physical distancing when gathering with other fully vaccinated individuals in small groups in their homes. The guidelines still urge the use of masks and physical distancing in public. In addition to the private visitation recommendations, the guidelines also make recommendations for isolation, quarantining and testing for those who are fully vaccinated.

**CMS updates visitation guidance for nursing homes.** CMS, in collaboration with the CDC, has updated [visitation guidance](#) for nursing homes given the national state of vaccine distribution to nursing home residents and staff. The agencies continue to recommend facilities, residents and families adhere to the core principles of COVID-19 infection control, including maintaining physical distancing

and conducting visits outdoors whenever possible. Organizations should ensure that their state and local public health guidance also permits visitation. See the CMS fact sheet [here](#).

**FDA authorizes first over-the-counter molecular test for at home use.** The FDA has [authorized](#) the first molecular test to detect the SARS-CoV-2 virus in a nasal swab at home without a prescription. Cue Health expects by summer to daily produce more than 100,000 of the tests, authorized for use in patients age 2 and older. The test has identified 96% of positive samples from people with symptoms and 100% of positive samples from people without symptoms.

## 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

**Federal government to purchase additional 100 million doses of Johnson & Johnson's COVID-19 vaccine.** Last week President Biden [announced](#) a deal for the U.S. government to purchase an additional 100 million doses of Johnson & Johnson's single-shot COVID-19 vaccine. The purchase doubles the nation's projected supply of Johnson & Johnson doses, to 200 million. The intent of the purchase is to prepare for long-term supply needs, including the eventual vaccination of children and the possible need for booster shots to protect against COVID-19 variants.

**AHA releases Supporting Care Teams resource for boosting staff morale post-COVID-19.** The AHA has released [AHA Hospitals in Action: Supporting Care Teams](#), compiling hospitals' and health systems' stories on ways they are supporting healthcare workers' well-being during the COVID-19 pandemic. The new resource is a companion to the recently updated Well-being Playbook 2.0, and is the result of a collaboration between the AHA Living Learning Network, AHA Behavioral Health Community and the AHA Physician Alliance.

**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

**New edition of AHA COVID-19 Snapshot highlights challenges facing hospitals.** The AHA last week released its [latest edition](#) of the COVID-19 Snapshot. The Snapshot combines important data points with news articles and testimonials from the field to illustrate the importance of providing hospitals and health systems with additional resources and support so they can continue to deliver care to patients and families.

**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](#)

###