

SITREP



MONTANA
HOSPITAL
ASSOCIATION

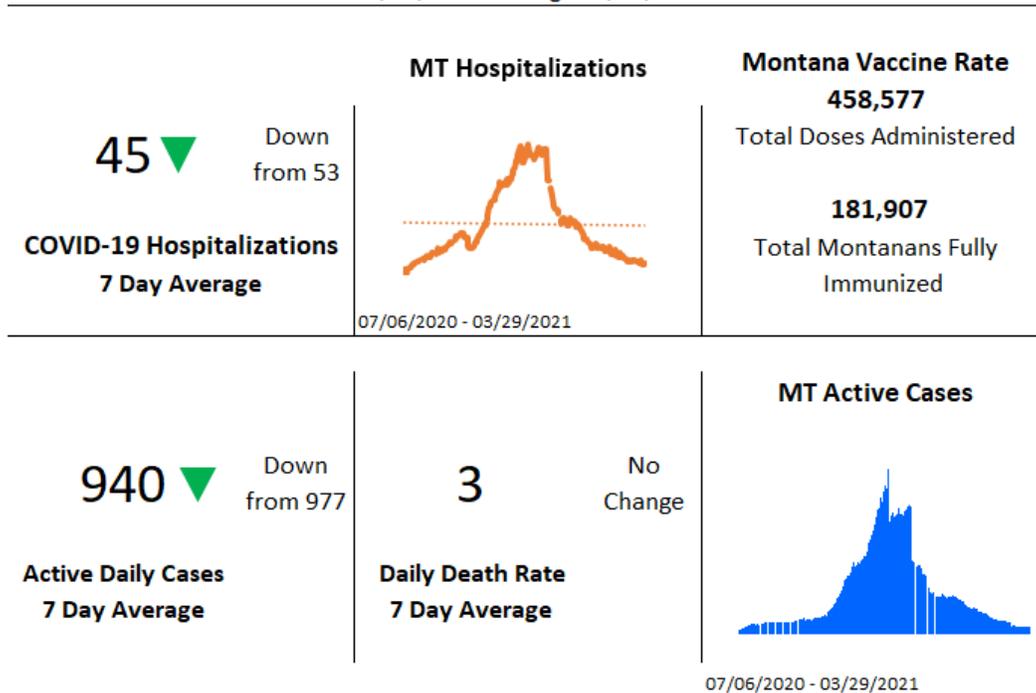
Montana Hospital Association - Situation Report

March 29, 2021

COVID-19

BY THE NUMBERS: COVID-19 IN MONTANA

03 /23/2021 through 03/29/2021

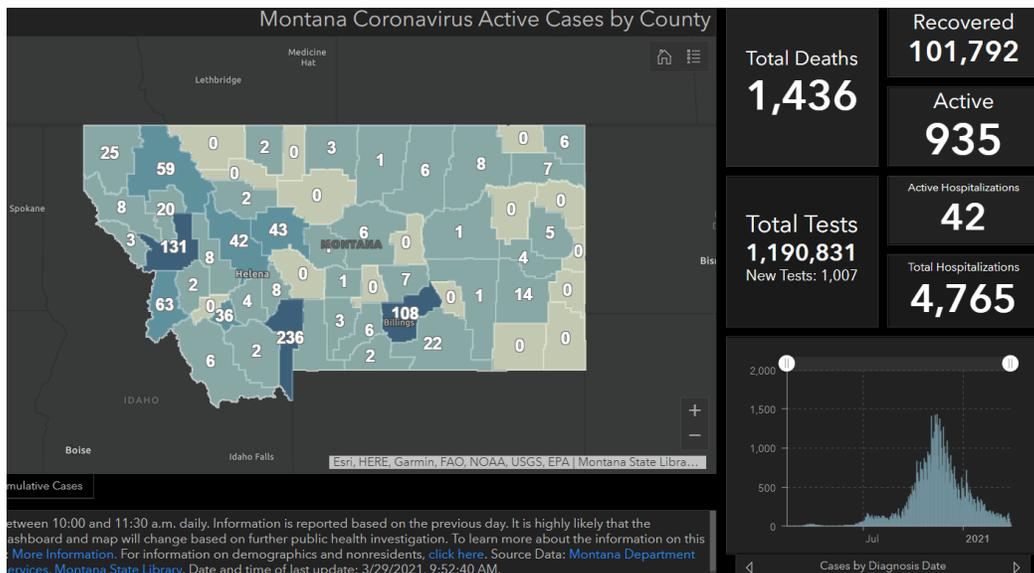


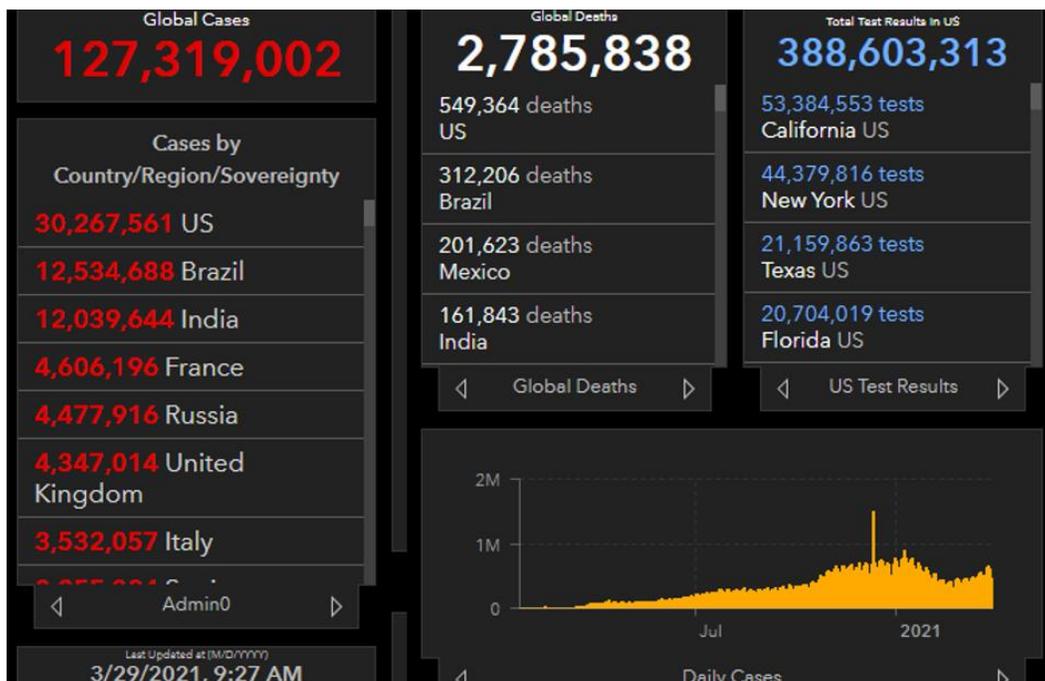
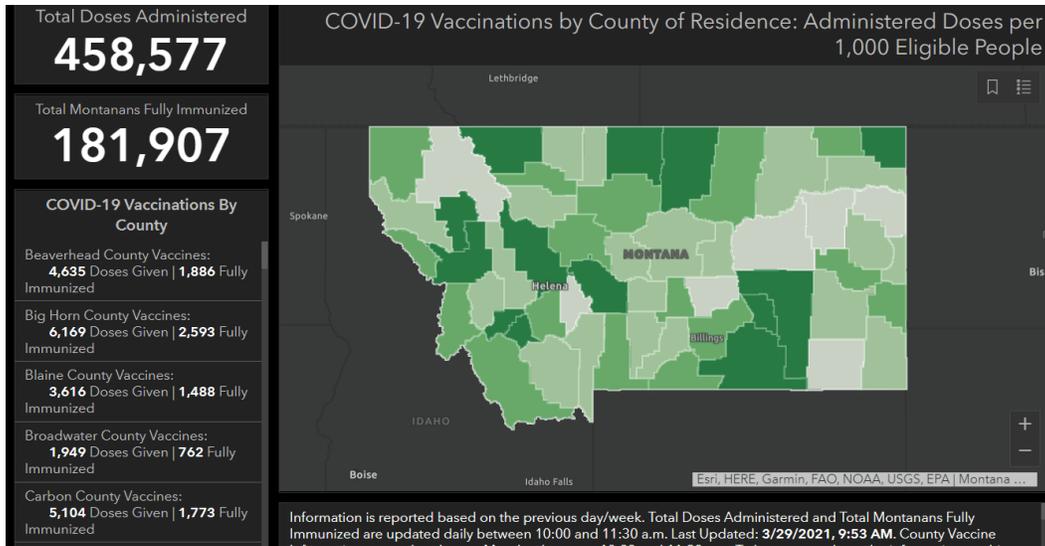
Source: [Montana COVID-19 Dashboard](#) (Updated 10:00 a.m.)

REPORTED CASES	
Montana <i>New last 7 days: 1,065 (+less than 0.5% avg. growth per day)</i> <i>Active Cases: 935 (-39)</i> <i>Recovered: 101,792 (+1,082)</i> <i>Hospitalizations, Total: 4,765 (+47)</i> <i>Hospitalizations, Active: 42 (-9)</i>	104,163

Deaths: 1,436 (last 7 days: +22) Source: Montana COVID-19 Dashboard (Updated 10:00 a.m.)	
United States <i>New last 7 days: 446,158 (+less than 0.5% avg. growth per day)</i> Source: Johns Hopkins CSSE Global Outbreak Dashboard	30,267,561
WA	361,115
ID	179,428
WY	56,046
ND	102,583
SD	117,244

See the latest Montana reports on [COVID-19 Variants of Concern in MT](#), [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](#)





Senate sends president bill extending Paycheck Protection Program. The Senate last week voted 92-7 to pass and send to the president legislation ([H.R. 1799](#)) to extend the PPP through June 30. The president is expected to sign the bill, which will allow applications through May 31. Without the extension, the program would expire March 31. The American Rescue Plan Act provided an additional \$7.25 billion for the program and clarified affiliation rules so that 501(c)(3) organizations that employ 500 or fewer employees per physical location are eligible to participate.

OPERATIONS

CMS lifts suspension of survey activities. CMS last week [announced](#) the immediate resumption of survey activities for all complaints. Previous guidance kept the suspension in place through March 22, 2021 and has CMS stated that it will not extend the survey suspension beyond the March 22, 2021 date.

AstraZeneca updates vaccine candidate data; adjusts efficacy for preventing symptomatic COVID-19 to 76%. AstraZeneca last week revised its data on its COVID-19 vaccine candidate, [stating](#) that its AZD1222 vaccine showed a 76% efficacy in preventing symptomatic COVID-19. All revisions were attributed to “pre-specified interim analysis,” which had sparked concerns from the Data and Safety Monitoring Board, which monitors AstraZeneca’s phase 3 clinical trial.

Meanwhile, a South African study [published](#) in the New England Journal of Medicine on natural immunity and vaccine efficacy against three major variants of concern found that the AstraZeneca vaccine may be much less effective against the South African variant.

HHS: Bamlanivimab no longer distributed alone due to SARS-CoV-2 variant resistance. Given the sustained increase in variants resistant to bamlanivimab alone, and availability of alternative authorized monoclonal antibodies, the U.S. government, in coordination with Eli Lilly, has stopped distributing bamlanivimab alone last Wednesday, HHS’ ASPR [announced](#). Provider sites will still be able to order bamlanivimab/etesevimab, etesevimab alone to pair with existing stock of bamlanivimab on hand or REGEN COV following existing ordering and reporting procedures.

The FDA Friday updated the [healthcare provider fact sheets](#) for all three monoclonal antibody therapies authorized for emergency use to include information on whether SARS-CoV-2 variants may show resistance to that therapy.

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.

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

LOGISTICS

AONL COVID-19 survey: Staffing, mental health top challenges for nurse leaders. About two-thirds of U.S. nurse leaders say emotional health and staffing are their top concerns, up 17% and 11%, respectively, since last July, according to a [new survey](#) from AHA's American Organization for Nursing Leadership and Joslin Marketing. "We have seen nurses leaving the profession due to moral distress, burnout, and fatigue," one nurse leader commented. "I believe if we can address the root cause of this problem, we will retain more nurses and begin to stabilize the numbers in the workforce."

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.

CMS extends special enrollment period until Aug. 15. CMS last week [extended](#) until Aug. 15 the special enrollment period launched Feb. 15 at the [federally facilitated marketplace](#) in response to the COVID-19 public health emergency.

The American Rescue Plan Act made more people eligible for marketplace subsidies and increased the amount of the subsidies, including allowing those making between 100% and 150% of the federal poverty level and those receiving unemployment compensation in 2021 to pay no premium for certain Marketplace plans. For more on the SEP, see the agency's [updated guidance](#).

FINANCE AND ADMINISTRATION

Hospital leaders, new analysis detail how COVID-19's ongoing negative financial impact on hospitals threatens patients' access to care. A [new analysis](#) prepared by Kaufman, Hall & Associates LLC and released last week by the AHA shows that even under the most optimistic scenario, including a smooth vaccine roll-out and reduced COVID-19 hospitalizations, 39% of hospitals would operate in the red in 2021, a marked increase over pre-pandemic baselines. In addition, rural hospitals face median margins between 38% and 100% lower than baselines. The report underscores the threat hospitals face in their ability to provide essential services to patients and communities.

Last week's analysis builds on another Kaufman Hall [report](#) released last month that forecast total hospital revenue in 2021 could fall between \$53 billion and \$122 billion from pre-pandemic baselines. A [2020 AHA report](#) estimated the nation's hospitals and health systems could lose at least \$323 billion through last year.

COMMUNICATIONS

New issue of AHA COVID-19 Snapshot highlights challenges facing hospitals. The AHA last week released its latest edition of the [COVID-19 Snapshot](#), underscoring the dire needs of hospitals and health systems during the public health emergency.

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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