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Gallatin City-County Health Department

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Weekly Communicable Disease Report April 6, 2020

Gallatin County Communicable Disease Report Week 13 (3/30/20 to 4/5/20)

This section contains diseases diagnosed in Gallatin County, not all diseases were contracted in Gallatin County.

Reportable		Non-Reportable	
5	Chlamydia	11	Strep
1	Syphilis		
4	Flu		

PLEASE CALL 406-582-3100 during business hours or after hours 24/7 call Sheriff's Dispatch at 406-582-2100 ext 2 and ask to page the Health Department

Disease Information

- **General Communicable Diseases:** Elevated blood lead (2), Latent TB Infection (LTBI) (1)
- **Enteric Diseases:** Campylobacteriosis (4), Shiga toxin producing *E. coli* [STEC] (1)
- **Vaccine Preventable Diseases:** Influenza hospitalization or death (6), Pertussis (4), *Streptococcus pneumoniae*, invasive (6), Varicella [chickenpox] (1)
- **STD/HIV:** Chlamydia (56), Gonorrhea (33), Syphilis, latent (1), Syphilis, primary or secondary (1), Syphilis, unknown (1), HIV (1)
- **Hepatitis:** Hepatitis C, chronic (9)

Hot Topics

- **Updates from CDC:**
 - Individuals identified as contacts now include those who were in contact with a case from the **48 hours prior to symptom onset** until appropriate control measures are in place.
 - **Risk levels** have been adjusted to simplify communications and implementation
 - **The definition of a contact** has been adjusted as well based on growing evidence of transmission risk from infected persons without symptoms or before the onset of recognized symptoms. Factors to consider when defining close contact include:
 - Proximity
 - Duration of exposure (e.g., longer exposure time likely increases exposure risk)
 - Whether the individual has symptoms (e.g., coughing likely increases exposure risk)

- Whether the individual was wearing a facemask (which can efficiently block respiratory secretions from contaminating others and the environment)
- Travelers, health care workers, and critical infrastructure workers should follow guidance that include special consideration for these groups.

Testing:

- The Montana Public Health Laboratory is testing for COVID-19 7 days per week

Please find up to date **information** on COVID-19:

- Montana: <https://dphhs.mt.gov/publichealth/cdepi/diseases/coronavirusmt>
- Montana Descriptive Epi tables: <https://dphhs.mt.gov/publichealth/cdepi/diseases/coronavirusmt/demographics>
- Montana GIS map: <https://covid19.mt.gov>
- U.S. case numbers from CDC: <https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/cases-updates/cases-in-us.html>

CDC Recommendations Regarding the Use of Cloth Face Coverings:

<https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/prevent-getting-sick/cloth-face-cover.html>

It is critical to emphasize that maintaining 6-foot social distancing remains important to slowing the spread of the virus. CDC is additionally advising the use of simple cloth face coverings to slow the spread of the virus and help people who may have the virus and do not know it from transmitting it to others. Cloth face coverings fashioned from household items or made at home from common materials at low cost can be used as an additional, voluntary public health measure.

The cloth face coverings recommended are not surgical masks or N-95 respirators. Those are critical supplies that must continue to be reserved for healthcare workers and other medical first responders, as recommended by current CDC guidance.

Influenza: As you might imagine, COVID-19 activity has surpassed other diseases again this week, but influenza activity continues in Montana and the U.S. Data from the past two weeks indicate that overall influenza activity is decreasing. To date, 11,158 cases, 488 hospitalizations, and 16 deaths have been reported in Montana.

Pertussis: What? There are other diseases out there besides COVID-19? Indeed, several cases of pertussis have been reported from Beaverhead, Madison, and Cascade counties over the past few weeks. Hopefully, increased social distancing practices will help to keep it from spreading. To date, 31 cases have been reported in Montana, compared to 73 at the same time in 2019. Please be aware that pertussis is circulating and to consider testing for pertussis when individuals present with history of prolonged coughing, especially if they have tested negative for COVID-19.