Gallatin County Weekly COVID-19 Surveillance Report – March 26, 2021

As a supplement to the data provided on the COVID-19 Dashboard, Gallatin City-County Health Department (GCCHD) will release this weekly surveillance report each Friday. The report includes additional epidemiologic data useful for understanding the current COVID-19 pandemic in Gallatin County, Montana.

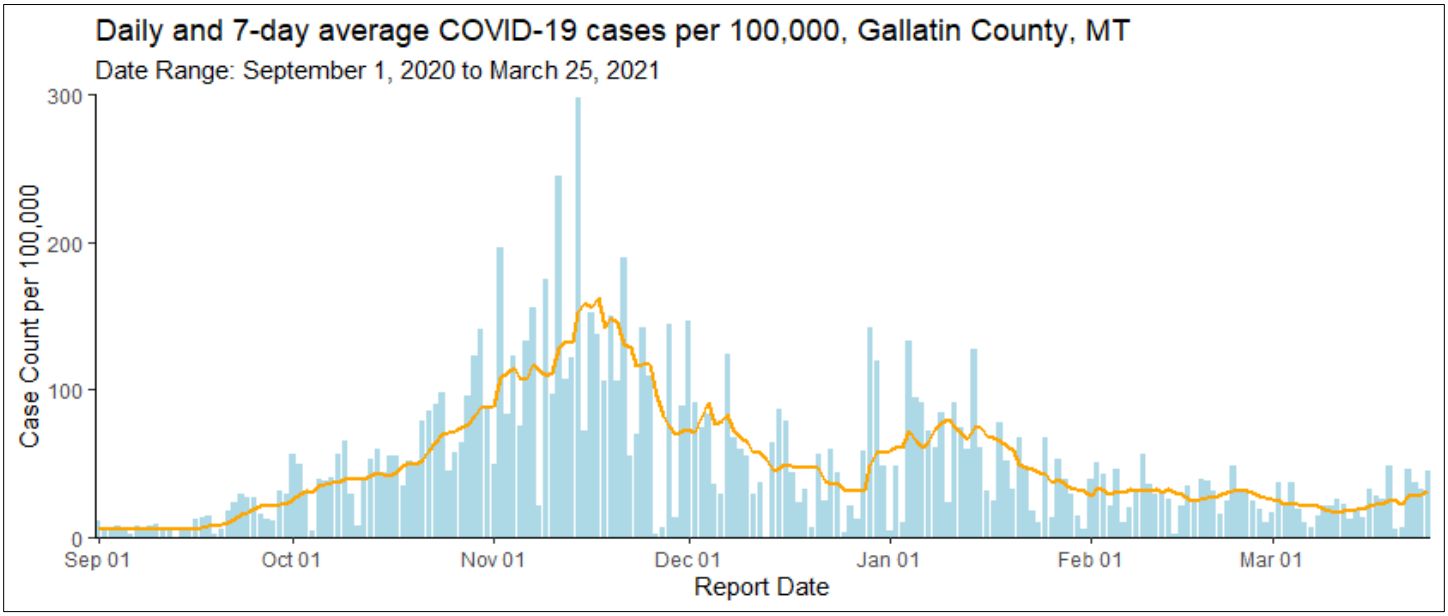

Figure 1. Describes the number of daily cases and 7-day rolling average of cases per 100,000 residents in Gallatin County. Blue bars indicate daily case reports per 100,000 residents and the orange line represents the 7-day rolling average of cases per 100,000 residents from 9/1/2020 to 3/25/2021. The 7-day rolling average of daily cases per 100,000 residents was 31.5 cases per 100,000 on 3/25/2021, a 42.5% increase from 22.1 cases per 100,000 on 3/18/2021.

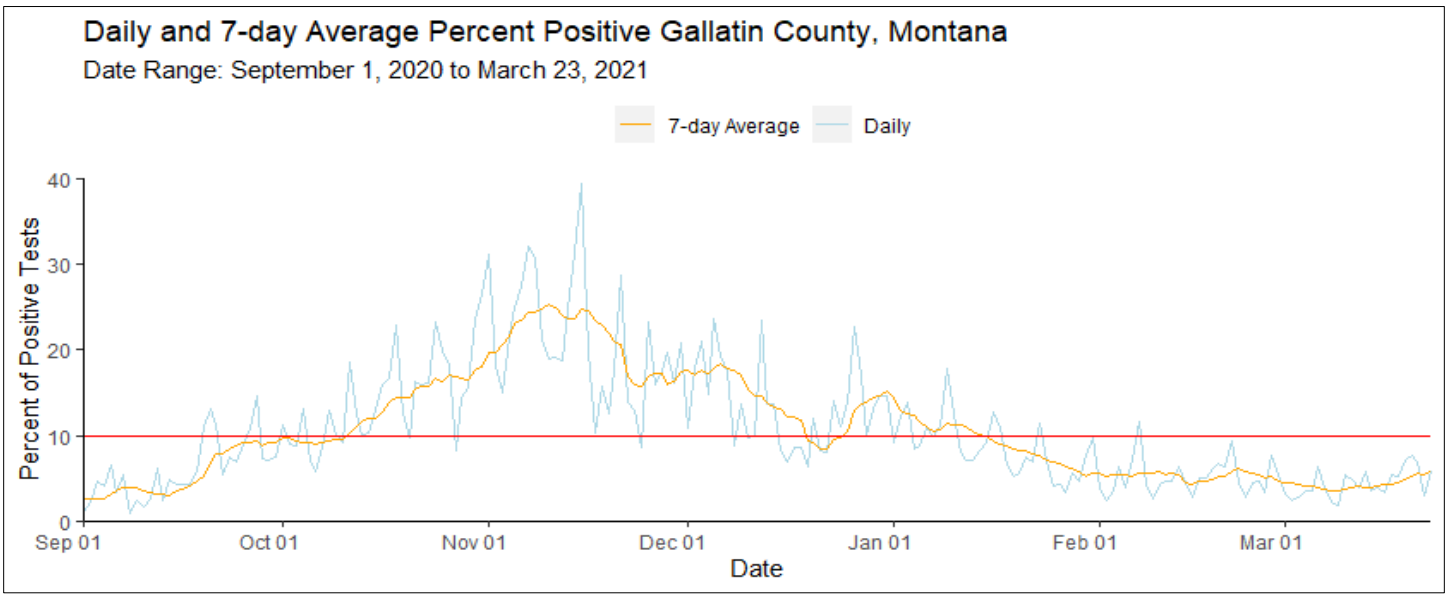

Figure 2. Describes the percent of positive tests by day and a 7-day rolling average of the percent of positive tests. The World Health Organization recommends a test positivity rate below 5% as a criteria for re-opening businesses. Public health experts say a positivity rate above 10% (red line) may mean more testing is necessary in order to avoid missing a significant number of cases in the community. The 7-day rolling average of percent positive was 5.9% on 3/23/2021, a 34% increase from 4.4% positivity rate for the 7 day period that ended on 3/16/2021.

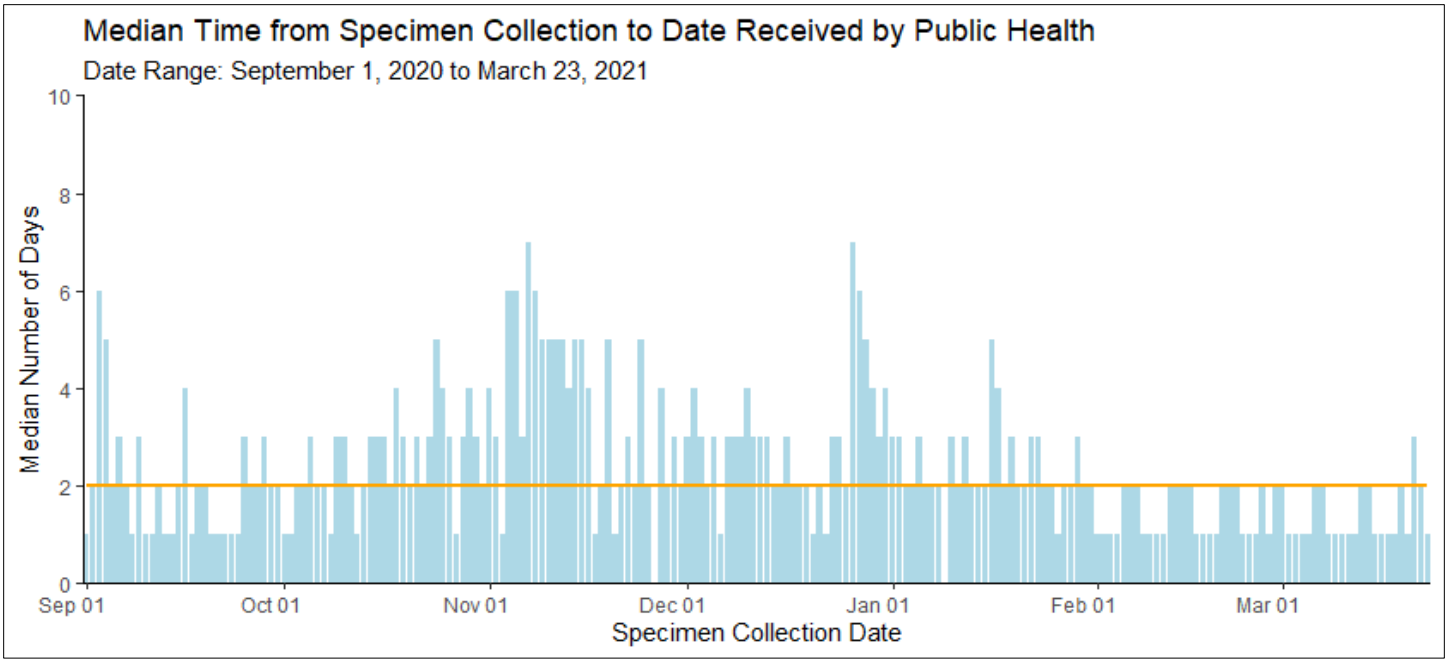

Figure 3. Describes the median number of days it takes a specimen collected until the result of the laboratory test is sent to GCCHD. The orange line in the figure above denotes 2 days. These data only include laboratory tests transmitted electronically via the Montana Infectious Disease Information System (MIDIS). Ideally, local health departments receive test results within 24-48 hours of specimen collection. Consistent delays greater than that make it more difficult to slow spread of the disease through isolation and quarantine. For cases reported during the period 2/23/2021 to 3/23/2021 the median time from specimen collection to report to public health was 1 day.

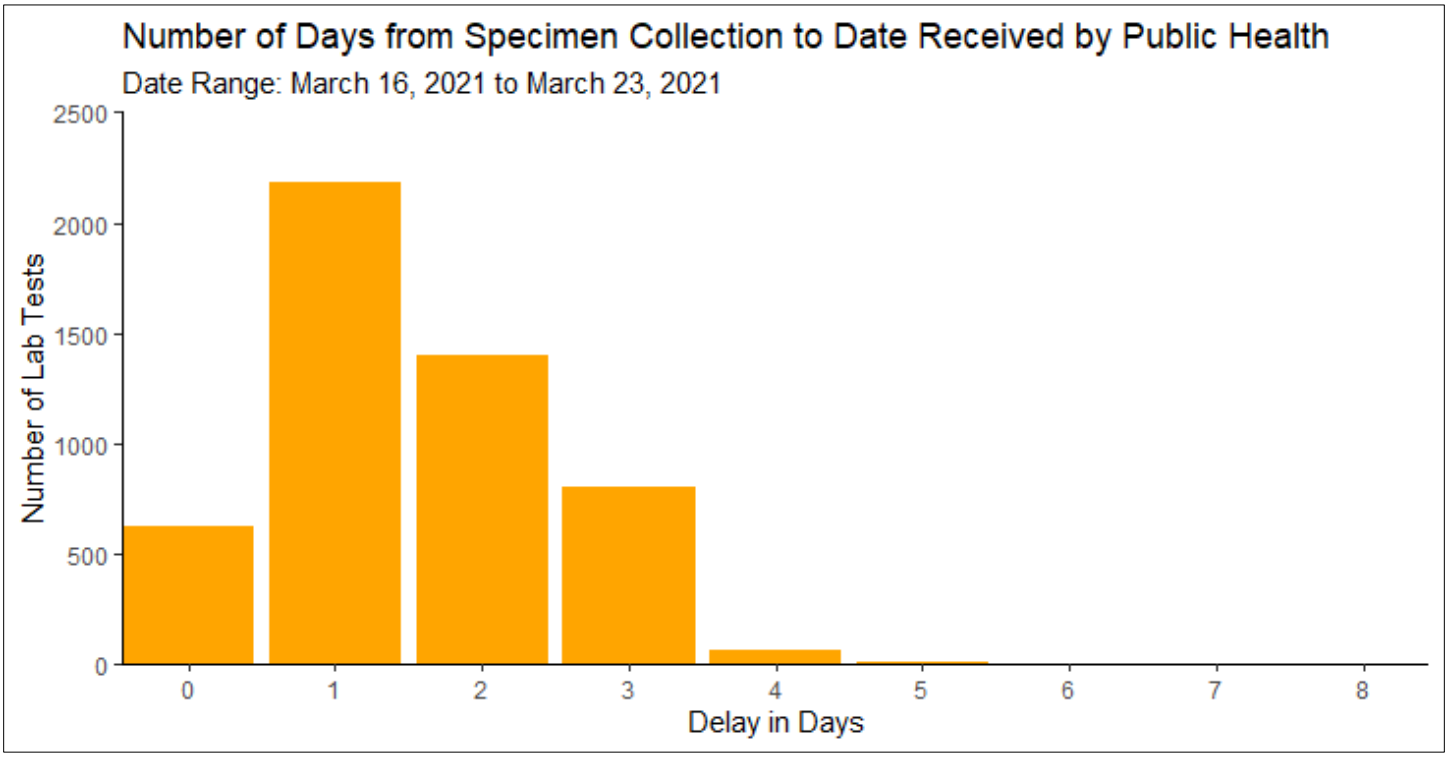

Figure 4. Describes the number of days it takes public health to receive the results of laboratory tests for COVID-19 from March 16, 2021 to March 23, 2021. These data only include laboratory tests transmitted electronically via the Montana Infectious Disease Information System (MIDIS). The median number of days between specimen collection and report to public health during this period was 1 day.

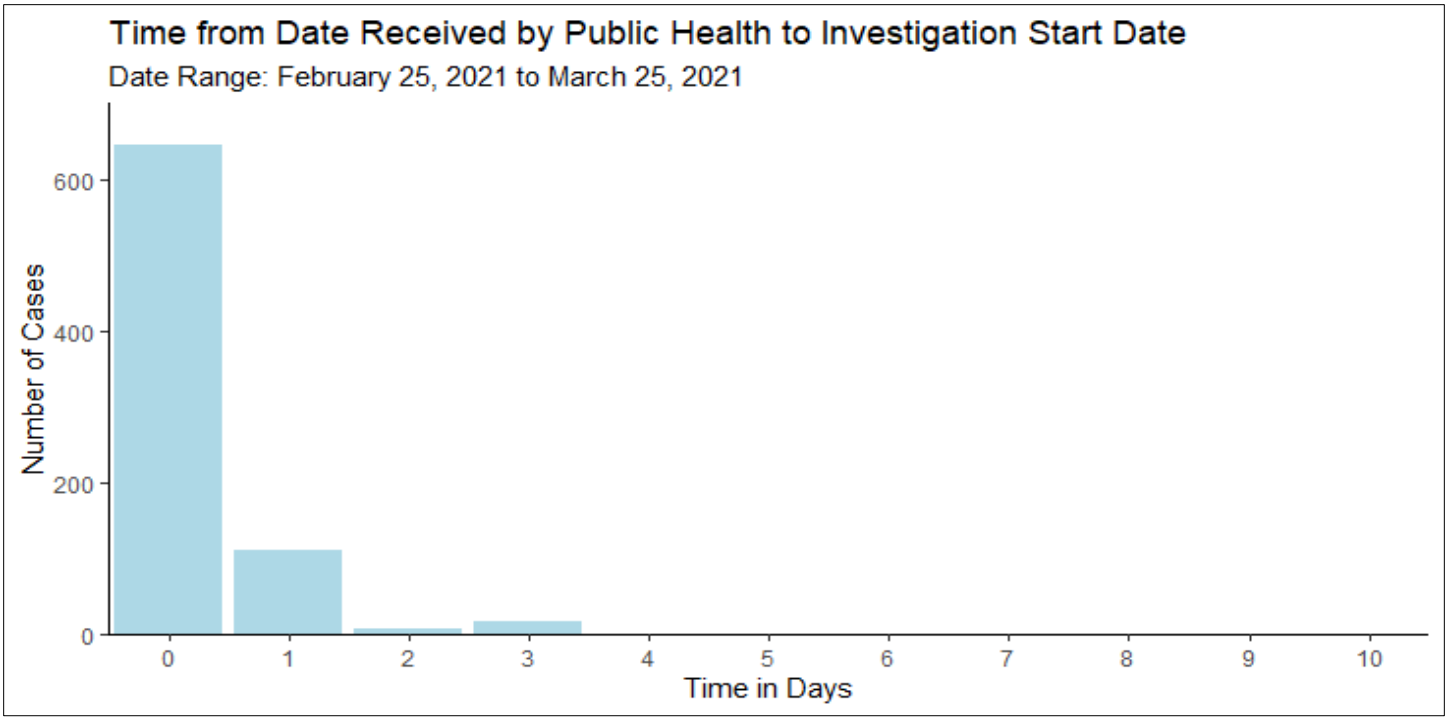

Figure 5. Describes the number of days from the time GCCHD is notified of a positive COVID-19 case and an investigation is started. Most COVID-19 case investigations (n=646) during the time frame referenced above were initiated in less than 24 hours after notification is received, as evidenced by the first blue bar in the figure above. Delays longer than 24 hours may be an indication that case numbers are outstripping contact tracing capacity. The median time from date received to investigation start date for the week ending 3/27/2021 was less than 1 day, unchanged from the previous week. For cases reported during the period 2/25/2021 to 3/25/2021, the median time from report to public health to start of investigation was less than 1 day.

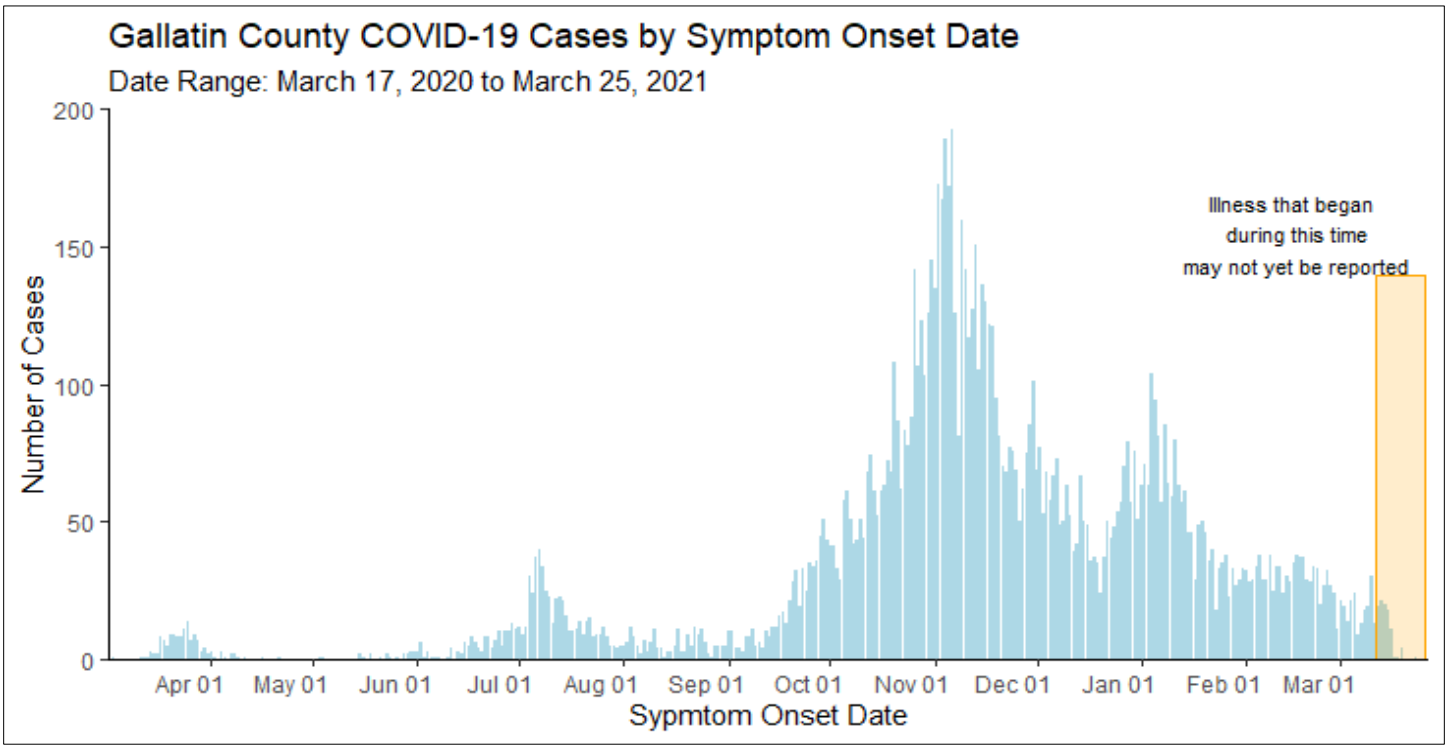

Figure 6. Epidemic curve of cases residing or recovering in Gallatin County at the time of COVID-19 diagnosis displayed by date of symptom onset. Data only includes cases (n=11689) with onset date information reported to GCCHD between 3/17/2020 to 3/25/2021. Onset date data may be unavailable because the COVID-19 case was asymptomatic, unable to determine when symptoms started, onset date is not yet reported or the case was not responsive to public health outreach.

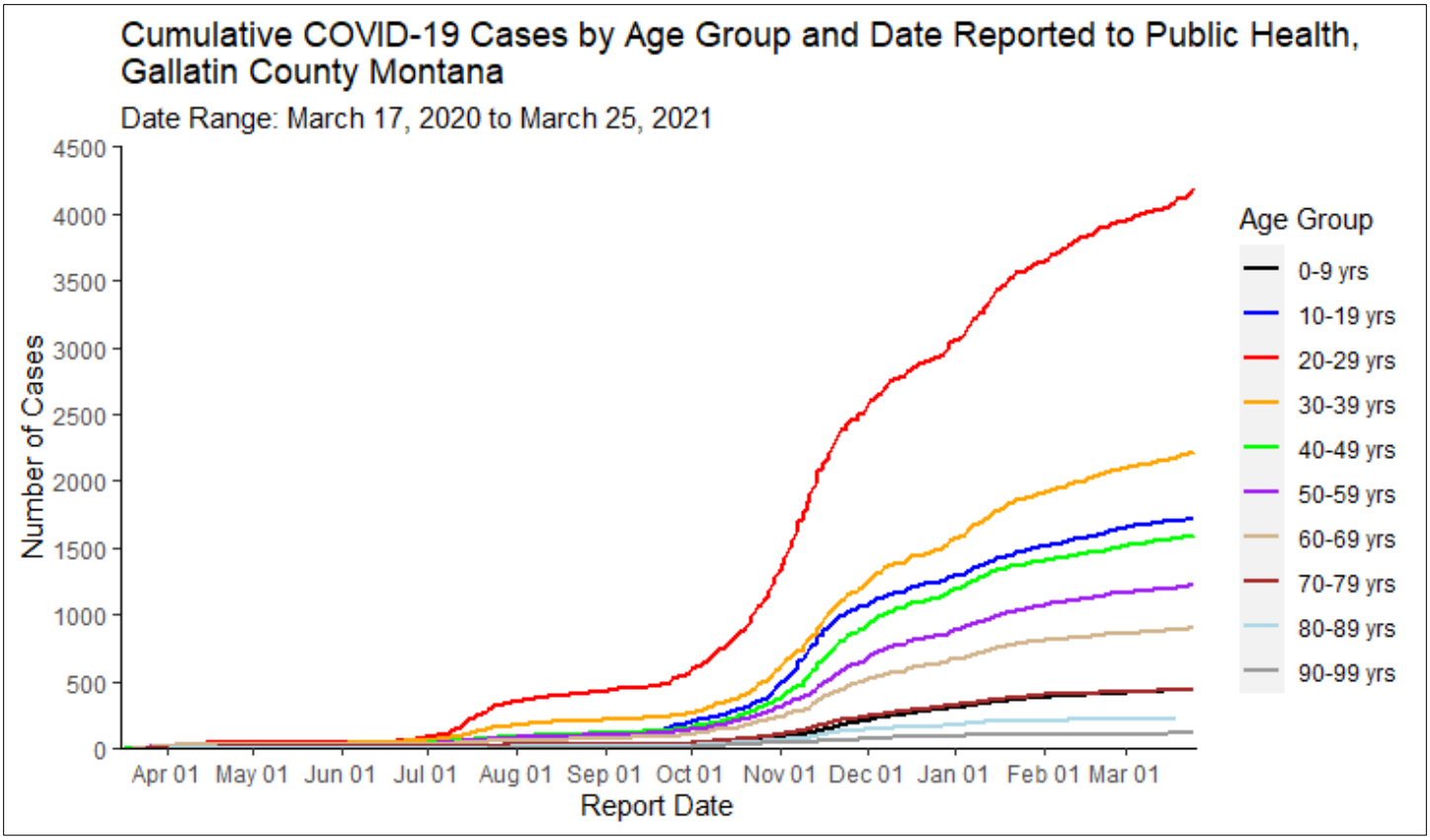

Figure 7. Describes the cumulative increase of COVID-19 cases over time among each ten-year age group from 3/17/2020 to 3/25/2021.

Table 1. Describes new, active and cumulative COVID-19 cases among persons associated with Montana State University, Bozeman, Montana.

Montana State University Fall 2020 Summary						
Reporting Period End Date		Cumulative Cases Reported Since August 1, 2020		**Total Recovered Cases Since August 1, 2020	*Number of Active* cases on Last Day of Reporting Period	
12/31/2020		1434		1420	14	
Montana State University Spring 2021 Data						
Reporting Period End Date	New Cases During Reporting Period	Cumulative Cases Reported Since January 1, 2021	% Change in Cumulative Cases from Previous Week	**Total Recovered Cases Since January 1, 2021	*Number of Active* cases on Last Day of Reporting Period	% Change in Active Cases from Previous Week
1/7/2021		32		9	23	
1/14/2021	37	69	+116%	33	36	+57%
1/21/2021	47	116	+ 68%	79	37	+ 3%
1/28/2021	35	151	+ 30%	121	30	- 19%
2/4/2021	20	171	+ 13%	157	14	- 53%
2/11/2021	24	195	+ 14%	176	19	+ 36%
2/18/2021	26	221	+ 13%	190	31	+ 63%
2/25/2021	36	257	+ 16%	229	28	- 10%
3/4/2021	21	278	+ 8%	259	19	- 32%
3/11/2021	22	300	+ 8%	282	18	- 5%
3/18/2021	20	320	+ 7%	300	20	+ 11%
3/25/2021	35	355	+ 11 %	322	33	+ 65%

* An “active” case means a person is diagnosed with COVID-19 and is in isolation while they may be contagious.
** A “recovered” case means a person tested positive for COVID-19 and is out of isolation because they are no longer considered contagious. It is important to understand that although a person is no longer in isolation, they may continue to feel the effects of COVID-19 infection after being released from isolation.

Table 2. Describes the number of active COVID-19 cases at K-12 schools, both public and private, in Gallatin County, Montana. Data are current as of 3/25/2021. Cumulative counts of COVID-19 cases in schools can be found on the Montana Department of Public Health and Human Services website here.

School Name	Active Cases
Belgrade Middle School	1
Bozeman High School	2
Cottonwood School	1
Longfellow School	1
Ridge View Elementary	1
Sacajawea Middle School	1
Sacajawea Middle School OL	1

*Cases counts include students and staff

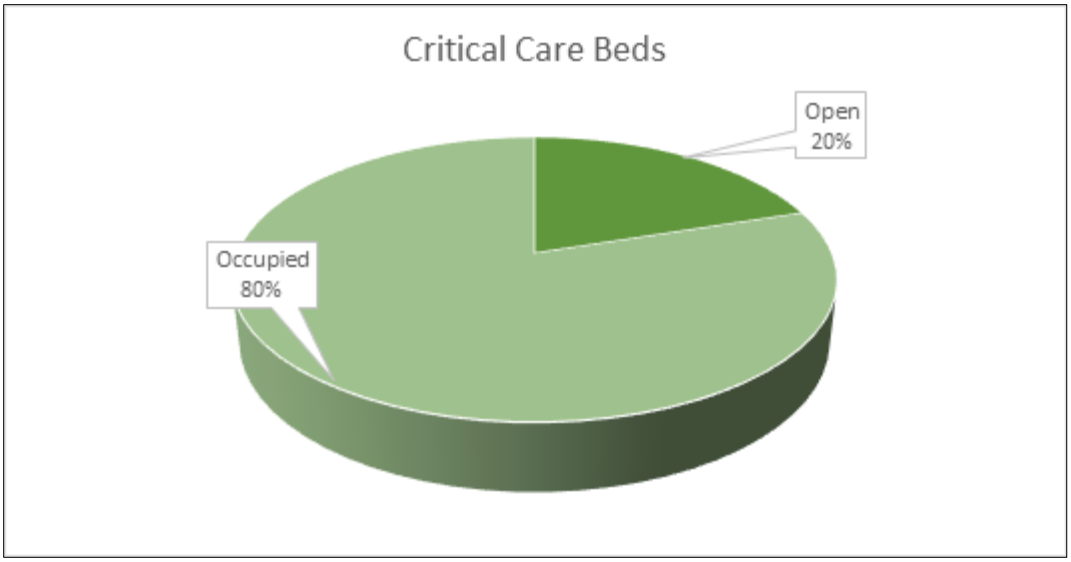

Figure 8. Describes critical care bed occupancy at Bozeman Health Deaconess Hospital and Big Sky Medical Center as of 3/26/2021.

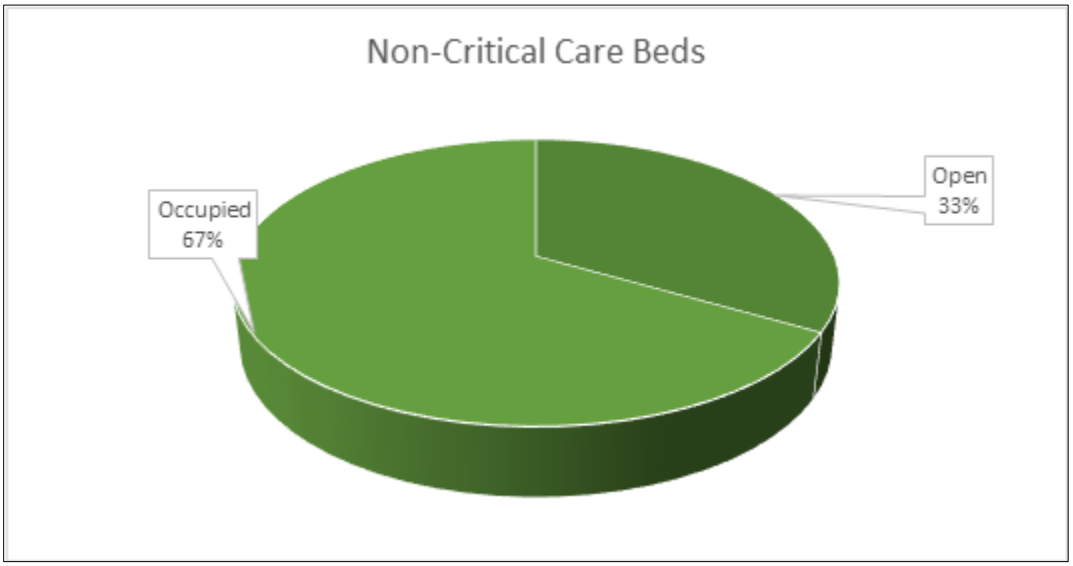

Figure 9. Describes non-critical care bed occupancy at Bozeman Health Deaconess Hospital and Big Sky Medical Center as of 3/26/2021. This level of non-critical bed occupancy is not uncommon and similar patient loads are managed on a regular basis.

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Please note the data contained in the report above are subject to change as more information regarding cases and lab tests become available through contact tracing or information sharing. GCCHD reserves the right to edit the format and content of the weekly surveillance report.