

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE: 07/21/20**

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## **RAVALLI COUNTY COVID-19 PUBLIC HEALTH UPDATE**

Hamilton, Mont. – As of 4pm today, Ravalli County Public Health has received **six new cases of COVID-19. Ravalli County now has 15 active cases of COVID-19.**

Two active cases are currently hospitalized. Two of the county's active cases remain presumptive positives due to symptoms consistent with the virus, one of these presumptive cases has also had direct contact with family members who are active cases.

Contact tracing is being performed on all cases by Public Health nurses.

- **It is imperative for community members to work openly and honestly with Public Health nurses when contacted about their recent interactions.**
- **Contact tracing is one of the most successful means of controlling the spread of COVID-19 in our community.**
- **Contact tracing allows for early quarantine of direct contacts and less subsequent exposure of community members.**
- **Identifying these contacts early, quarantining, and watching for signs of COVID-19 infection, are the tools used by Public Health nurses to keep residents safe, and Ravalli County businesses open.**

All active cases are in isolation and their contacts are being quarantined.

Public Health nurses continue to release active cases from isolation as they recover from symptoms.

Direct contacts are released from quarantine as they complete their 14-day period without symptoms.

**Governor Steve Bullock has issued a directive requiring face coverings in certain indoor spaces and for certain organized outdoor activities in counties currently experiencing four or more active cases of COVID-19 to slow the spread of the virus in Montana.**

- Executive Orders 2-2020 and 3-2020 declare that a state of emergency exists in Montana due to the global outbreak of COVID-19.
- The official directive is available here:  
<https://dphhs.mt.gov/Portals/85/Documents/NewsLetters/MaskDirective.pdf>

**Keep yourself safe. Keep your family safe. Guard the most vulnerable citizens in our community.**

- Keep your social circle as small as possible
- Wear a mask when in public or interacting with people

- Maintain a minimum distance of six feet from other people
- Wash your hands often and thoroughly

If you have any questions regarding COVID-19, please call: (406) 375-6672.

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