

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE: 08/20/20

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RAVALLI COUNTY COVID-19 PUBLIC HEALTH UPDATE

Hamilton, Mont. – As of 4pm today, Ravalli County Public Health has received **no new cases of COVID-19. Ravalli County currently has four active cases of COVID-19.**

- One active case remains hospitalized.
- Public Health nurses continue to release active cases from isolation once they recover from symptoms.

Public Health continues to encounter recovered cases who are seeking medical care for recurrence of symptoms consistent with COVID-19.

Whether the presence of detectable but low concentrations of viral RNA after clinical recovery represents the presence of potentially infectious virus is unknown. Based on experience with other viruses, it is unlikely that such persons pose an important infectious risk to others. However, whether this is true for SARS-CoV-2 infection has not been definitively established.

After the onset of illness, the detectable viral burden usually declines. After a week or more, anti-SARS-CoV-2 immunoglobulin becomes detectable and then antibody levels increase. Some of these antibodies may prevent the virus from infecting cells in cell culture. A decline in viral RNA is associated with a decreased ability to isolate live virus. For most patients with COVID-19, efforts to isolate live virus from upper respiratory tract specimens have been unsuccessful when specimens are collected more than 10 days after illness onset. Recovery of live virus between 10 and 20 days after symptom onset has been documented in some persons with severe COVID-19; in some cases, these persons were in an immunocompromised state.

The information above, and more information about persistent positive cases can be found on the CDC website using the link below:

- <https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/hcp/faq.html#Patients-with-Persistent-or-Recurrent-Positive-Tests>

If you have symptoms of COVID-19, please call your provider.

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

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