

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE: 12/10/20**

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

Hamilton, Mont. – Ravalli County Public Health is reporting **32 new cases for Wednesday 12/9/20.**  
**Total open investigations as of 5pm Wednesday was 605.**

Ravalli County has seen a decline in reported positive COVID cases this week. Reasons for the decline or if it will continue to decline are unknown at this time. The county can also expect to see a sizeable decrease in open cases reported daily as well, due in part to the new online process. In October, we began to experience an exponential increase in new cases being reported. Public health struggled to keep up with the volume. A plea for additional staff, to aide with contact tracing went out via multiple media outlets. Many answered and public health found an additional 8 staff with various professional backgrounds to help contact trace. Due to the limited space in public health and the concern that any sort of close contact exposures could knock out services, these tracers have been set up to work from home. Even with the addition of these tracers, public health has continued to struggle with reaching residents in a timely manner. This week we began to offer an online option for isolation letters and release of isolation requests. The process has helped greatly with assigning resources in a more appropriate and time effect manner. Public health continues to look for solutions to meet the needs of those positive cases and will continue to endeavor to provide accurately reported numbers to the community. We thank the community for their patience during these unprecedented times. Director Webber would like to extend a special thanks to those 8 contact tracers for their service to this community. They have certainly made all the difference. Thank you!

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