

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE: 12/16/20

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

Hamilton, Mont. – Ravalli County Public Health had 24 cases reported for Wednesday 12/16/20. The active open case count was at 379 as of 5pm yesterday. Many parts of the state are seeing a decline in the number of new cases. For our county, it has been a chance for staff to catch up and turn our focus towards planning vaccinations clinics. Vaccine could arrive in our clinic as early as next week. However, only first line health care workers and long term care are eligible to receive the vaccine during Phase 1a. Per ACIP (Advisory Committee on Immunization Practices) Public Health will not begin vaccination of those eligible until all staff have completed training. Pfizer training came out this week with Moderna training expected to be out by the end of the week. Ravalli County Public Health does not plan to receive the extreme cold storage Pfizer vaccine, but expects to receive the Moderna vaccine. Moderna is a 2 dose series given 28 days apart that can be stored in a regular cold temperature freezer. Public Health will continue to update the community regarding vaccine and plans for dispensing as information becomes available.

###