

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE: 1/15/2021

RAVALLI COUNTY COVID-19 Vaccine Update PUBLIC HEALTH UPDATE

We are aware that there has been an overwhelming response and interest from our community regarding the COVID vaccine. The rollout and distribution of this vaccine is an effort that is unprecedented in recent times, perhaps even in the history of the United States. Because of this, we have and will continue to experience challenges in delivering the vaccine to our residents.

The cost of the vaccine is taxpayer-funded through the federal government. Vaccine supply is allocated and distributed to the states, who then allocate and distribute it to local governments and local vaccine providers.

At this time, we have not received any information or projections of future quantities of vaccine or dates that it may be received by providers in Ravalli County. Additionally, guidelines for distribution have, and are expected to continue to change throughout this process. These are the reasons that we are unable to offer appointment times or waitlists for the vaccine. Contrary to some rumors that have been circulating- Public Health is not offering or maintaining a 'waiting list' for the vaccine.

We know that many in Ravalli County want to receive the vaccine, and we are committed to that effort! However, we need your help to make this happen.

- Please continue to monitor local media and information sources- we will provide the most current information we have on vaccine distribution.
- Please do not call or email Public Health with questions about the vaccine at this time- we will let you know when and how to receive vaccine when it is available.
- Please have patience with this process- realize that this is an unprecedented distribution effort across the entire United States.
- Please continue to observe public health guidelines and directives - wear your mask, wash your hands and watch your distance. Keep your cohort groups small and stay home if you are sick.
- Please continue to be courteous and respectful to visitors to our valley, our neighbors, businesses, and to each other.

We are committed to this process until every Ravalli County resident who wants the vaccine is able to receive it.

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