

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE: April 12, 2021

RAVALLI COUNTY COVID QUARANTINE UPDATE PUBLIC HEALTH

Hamilton, Mont. Ravalli County has 39 active open cases currently in home isolation. Over the weekend 12 new positive labs were reported to Ravalli County Public Health from a number of reporting facilities for follow up. Public Health staff continue to contact those positive labs to determine infection and provide education and support to those families to mitigate spread of the virus.

With numbers remaining steady for the county, Ravalli County Public Health is updating the quarantine guidance to include the CDC's options for reduce quarantine length. CDC continues to endorse a 14 day "at home" quarantine as best practice in mitigating the spread of the virus. However, in an effort to reduce the financial burden and stress the 14 day quarantine has had on county residents, the Health Officer, Dr. Carol Calderwood, has approved adoption of the two reduced options as outlined by CDC.

Allowable reduced quarantine are as follows:

- **10 day at home quarantine. Does not require testing.**
 - *At home quarantine for the first 10 days with remaining 4 days; adherence to consistent and correct masking, physical distancing including avoiding crowded areas and hand hygiene should be followed. Monitor for symptoms. Stay home if you develop symptoms and seek care.*
- **7 day at home quarantine with required Public Health clearance.**
 - *At home quarantine for the first 7 days. **PCR** testing obtained on or after day 5 with negative result on day 7. Provided you remain free of symptoms, remaining 7 days; adherence to consistent and correct masking, physical distancing including avoiding crowded areas and hand hygiene should be followed. Monitor for symptoms. Stay home if you develop symptoms and seek care.*

The reduced "at home" quarantine options go in to effect immediately. Identified close contacts who have had a documented case of COVID with a positive PCR in the last 90 days are not required to quarantine. As well, fully vaccinated residents identified as close contacts are not required to quarantine provided they show no symptoms. The purpose of quarantine is to reduce transmission of COVID. Following the guidelines and staying home when sick remain the best practice.

Public Health would like to thank the many vaccine providers around the county for providing vaccinations. If you are registered with Ravalli County Public Health and have not received a call and still would like to schedule with Public Health, please call 406-375-6672. Thank you Ravalli County.

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