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Mia Bell
COVID Recovery Coordinator
Mia.bell@nrmedd.org
406-823-9849

Advisory #21
Week of 1/11/21

A look ahead for the week with information from the weekly Gallatin County Emergency Management Coordination Call.

Gallatin county exceeded 10,000 cumulative cases over the weekend. The 7-day average is back up to 92 cases per day.

The Point of Dispensing (POD) at the fairgrounds will be this Thursday, the 14th. The health department is hoping to complete 1A first doses and be able to move to 1B as vaccine becomes available.

For reference, the current Phase 1A and 1B definitions are as follows:

Phase 1A Recipients (No Change)

- Frontline healthcare workers
- Long-term Care and Assisted Living Facilities (LTC/ALF)
- Healthcare workers with direct patient contact or virus exposure

Phase 1B Recipients

- Persons aged 70 years and older
- American Indians and other people of color who may be at elevated risk for COVID-19 complications
- Persons aged 16-69 with high-risk medical conditions. Qualifying medical conditions include:
 - o Cancer
 - o Chronic kidney disease o COPD (chronic obstructive pulmonary disease)
 - o Down Syndrome
 - o Heart conditions, such as heart failure, coronary artery disease, or cardiomyopathies
 - o Immunocompromised state (weakened immune system) from solid organ transplant
 - o Severe Obesity (BMI \geq 40 kg/m²)

- o Sickle cell disease
- o Type 1 & 2 Diabetes mellitus
- o On a case-by-case basis, medical providers may include individuals with other conditions that place them at elevated risk for COVID-19 related complications.

The state will be monitoring each county's progress and aim to keep the counties on the same phasing schedule. With that, it is now forecasted that Phase 1B will start by the end of January statewide.

There are 250,000 people represented in Phase 1B statewide. The availability of vaccine is a problem for kicking off this phase. Currently, the state is being allocated 6500 doses a week. This may increase to 13,000 by the end of January. Along with 1B, the 1A group will receive their 2nd dose. Without an increase in the state allocation, you can see that it will be a long process to get through 1B. The eligible persons in group 1B will need to be further prioritized to create manageable groups up people to match supply.

The Gallatin County Board of Health will meet on January 20th to decide if they should extend local health mandates.

MSU is starting limited voluntary asymptomatic testing in residence halls today. Symptomatic testing will continue today at the stadium, 8:30-4. They have vaccinated medical staff at University Health Partners and about 150 students in programs with patient contact in clinical rotations and hope to finish that group this week. Beginning to think about 1B in the student population with defined underlying conditions and people of color. Getting together lists for when that time comes.

The Bozeman School District is meeting tonight to discuss recommendations to the board based on the metrics matrix put in place to guide school operations. The recommendation is to continue full-time in school learning for K-5, return to 5-day instruction for grades 6-8 beginning 2/1 and remain with a blended model for 9-12. It will be up to the board of trustees to accept that recommendation sometime tonight.