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Advisory #26
Gallatin County Phase 1B Soon

Gallatin City-County Health Department has wrapped up our last Phase 1A Point of Dispensing (POD). We are waiting for additional vaccine doses before we can schedule any PODs for Phase 1B.

We do not have appointments available for Phase 1B at this time. More information will be available the week of January 18.

Phase 1B

When Phase 1B is ready, the first vaccines will be available for Gallatin County residents over the age of 80 as well as American Indians and people of color. These groups have statistically proven to be of the highest risk within the Governor's [amended Phase 1B eligible individuals](#).

What we know about these groups:

- COVID-19 death rates are much higher with increasing age.
- In Montana, COVID-19 death rates among American Indian residents are 11.6 times higher than white residents. [\[1\]](#)
- Average age of death from COVID-19 among American Indian residents is 68 years. The average age of death from COVID-19 among white residents is 82 years. [\[2\]](#)

As we transition into Phase 1B, please note anyone from Phase 1A is still eligible to get the vaccine.

Please be patient as we move into this new phase and remember that our vaccine supply remains limited. We will be following the [Governor's plan](#) to help our most vulnerable citizens first. To do so, we've established a task force to create guidelines for distributing the limited supply of vaccines. This task force is made up of local healthcare providers, business representatives, and government officials.

Until the vaccine is more widely available, everyone should continue to follow critical public health protocols including:

- Avoid crowds
- Wear a mask in public
- Maintain at least 6 feet distance from people
- Wash your hands often
- Stay home when you're sick

We will provide additional information on vaccine distributions as soon as they are available. Thank you for your patience.