

February 9, 2021



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

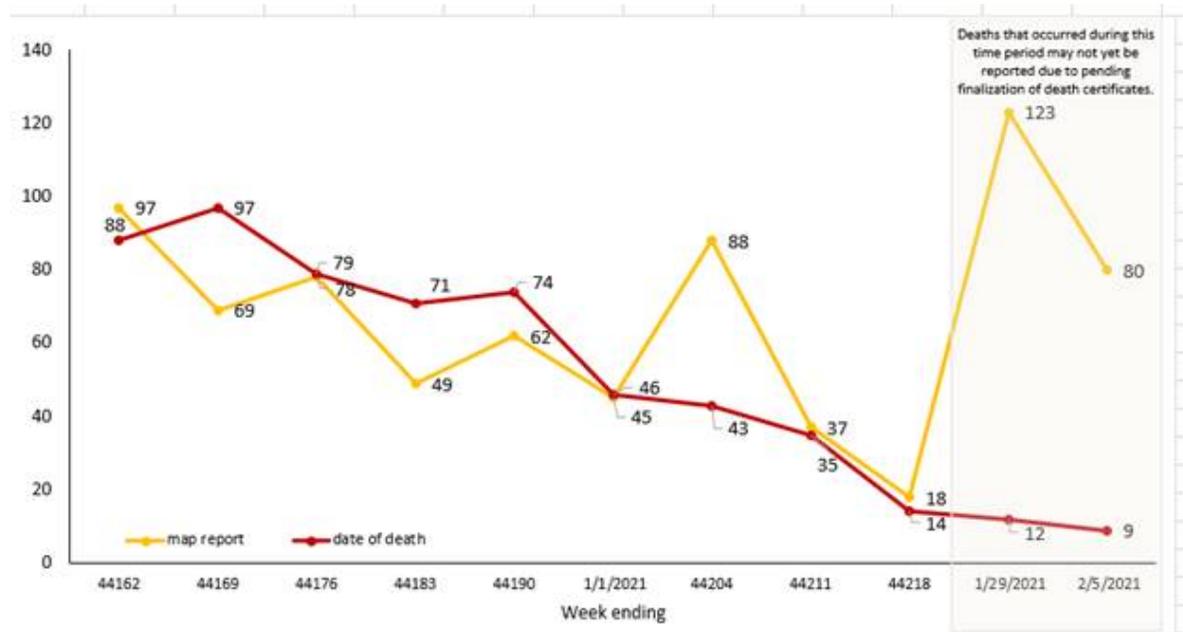
Advisory #33
Death Rate Reporting and Local Vaccination Update

Reports of COVID death cases nationwide as well as for Montana are reporting increasing death rates concurrently with decreasing case rates. I reached out to James Murphy with DPHHS for his insight on this and he had an optimistic explanation!

DPHHS has been working with local jurisdictions to review death records to ensure accuracy and make sure we are counting appropriately. This has led to some data clean-up resulting in reporting artifacts. Deaths, when examined by date of occurrence, deaths are significantly declining but we have added many that were not yet reported.

When examined by date of report, the data is different and makes it appear like an increase. That is an artifact of the data reconciliation process.

Here's a better idea of the actual impact where deaths on the red line are by actual date of occurrence:



Vaccination Update

As of last week, Gallatin County had received a total of 8700 vaccination doses. To date, the health department has administered 3900 of those.

10 dispensing events were held in the county last week. Over the weekend, MSU administered over 800 1B vaccinations with the help of over 100 student volunteers from their medical and nursing programs. Engineering students monitored the event to help identify efficiencies to streamline the process which is a greater process for the Pfizer vaccine than the Moderna.

Bozeman Health administered 1566 first doses with their primary care team to Phase 1B recipients last week. They are looking to do nearly 2000 doses that they'll receive this week. They are reaching out to Bozeman Health patients by phone to schedule these.

The Gallatin Health Department opened their online appointments with 120 time slots and booked out in six minutes. The number available through that channel will grow as supply does. As forecasting of supply extends, they can also schedule further out than 1 week. Several options are being utilized to reach the 1B population based on their access. Online sign ups, direct outreach by health care providers, assistance from senior centers and social service agencies. Each process has its difficulties because of supply but provides opportunities to a wide range of people.

Park County Health Department is now focusing on residents 75+. They encourage those who know a Park County resident of that age to contact the health department at 222-4131 with their contact information. Park County Health Department is reaching out to these individuals by phone to schedule their vaccination. Last week they vaccinated a 111 year old and spoke to many that shared that their vaccination appointment was the first time they'd been out since the start of the pandemic.

Oscor, Western Drug, Albertsons, Medcor (in Yellowstone), Livingston Healthcare and Community Health Partners are also administering vaccines as supply allows in Park County. For this week's vaccination scheduling calls they are speaking to a number of folks that wanted the vaccine, but not this week, due to the subzero temperatures.