

March 4, 2021



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### Advisory #46

## Update on COVID-19 Vaccine Eligibility in Gallatin County and Links to the Availability of the Vaccine through the Federal Retail Pharmacy Program in Montana

Starting Monday, March 8, Gallatin County will be expanding the list of people currently eligible for the COVID-19 vaccine in our area. Everyone who will be eligible when we move into Phase 1B+ includes the following:

- People age 60+
- People age 16-59 with certain underlying medical conditions. See here for the full list of those conditions: <https://bit.ly/3bedl3I>
- American Indians and other people of color who may be at elevated risk for COVID-19 complications
- People who are eligible in Phase 1A

If you are already subscribed to notifications in Phase 1B, you do not need to do anything further. If you are now eligible under the expanded Phase 1B+, please visit this page to see how you can sign up for notifications specific to Phase 1B and how to opt out of your current phase notifications:

<https://www.healthygallatin.org/covid-19-vaccines/covid-19-vaccine-alert-system>.

For more information on COVID-19 vaccines in Gallatin County, please visit <https://www.healthygallatin.org/covid-19-vaccines>

Vaccines are also becoming available in Montana through the **Federal Retail Pharmacy Program**. As of last week, only 3,100 doses had been delivered to Montana across 21 counties through this program. As a federal allocation of vaccine, vaccinations through this program will follow the federal eligibility guidelines rather than Montana's phasing directives. That means that vaccinations through participating pharmacies, where available, will be available per the President's March 2<sup>nd</sup> directive that all states prioritize school staff and childcare workers for COVID-19 vaccination and is challenging states to get teachers, school staff and workers in childcare programs their first shot by the end of March. To help states do this, the federal pharmacy program will prioritize vaccinating all school staff and childcare workers during the month of March. Teachers and staff in pre-K-12 schools and childcare programs will be able to sign up for an appointment at over 9,000 pharmacy locations participating in the program nationwide.

[The CDC currently shows the following pharmacies participating in Montana:](#)

- [Albertsons Companies, Inc.](#)
- LeaderNET and Medicine Shoppe, Cardinal Health's PSAOs
- Topco Associates, LLC
- [Walgreens](#)
- [Walmart, Inc.](#)

Searching for availability today at the above links, I do not find any availability in our area. Walmart does show availability in Billings. I would guess that these websites will be updated regularly as the program expands. This provides a great option for our teachers and childcare providers should these become an option prior to the state phasing plan.