

Flathead County Communicable Disease Weekly Report

This report provides the weekly report of communicable diseases in Flathead County. The data provided is provisional and may change as information is received.

Table 1. Communicable diseases in Flathead County* compared to statewide data during week MMWR 21 (week ending 5/25/2024).

	Flathead County		State of Montana	
	MMWR Week 21	Total (2024 Year-to-Date)	MMWR Week 21	Total (2024 Year-to-Date)
General Communicable Diseases				
Covid-19	3	476	64	6,530
Influenza, Hospitalization or Death	1	78	1	583
Latent TB Infection	1	13	1	71
Hepatitis				
Hepatitis C	1	13	15	344
Sexually Transmitted Diseases				
Chlamydia	4	66	59	1,385
Gonorrhea	2	4	12	306
Animal Bites	9	129	Not Reported	

Data Source: MTDPHHS Weekly Communicable Disease Epidemiology Report

*Not all cases were contracted in Flathead County

Additional Information:

Summary of Diseases in the State of Montana for Week 21:

- **Enteric Diseases:** Campylobacteriosis (17), Cryptosporidiosis (1), Cyclosporiasis (1), Giardiasis (3), Salmonellosis (18), Shiga toxin-producing Escherichia coli (STEC) (2)
- **General Communicable Diseases:** COVID-19 (61), Tuberculosis, Latent Infection (LTBI) (1)
- **Heavy Metal Exposures:** Elevated Blood Lead (4)
- **Hepatitis:** Hepatitis C, acute (1), Hepatitis C, chronic (15)
- **STD/HIV:** Chlamydia (60), Gonorrhea (12), HIV/AIDS (1), Syphilis, latent (8), Syphilis, primary or secondary (3)
- **Vaccine Preventable Diseases:** Influenza, hospitalization or death (1), Streptococcus pneumoniae, invasive (3)
- **Zoonotic:** Rabies, post-exposure prophylaxis (PEP) (2)

Preventing Rabies Exposures

Rabies is a viral disease that is 100% fatal. In Montana, bats and skunks are the animals most likely to have rabies. Rabies is usually spread through bites or scratches from the infected animal. Not all infected animals will look or act sick.

If you get bitten or scratched by a animal, talk to your medical provider. They can help with wound care and make sure your tetanus shot is up to date. Depending on the animal exposure, rabies post-exposure prophylaxis may be recommended to prevent rabies.

The best way to prevent rabies is to prevent animal bites. Wild animals should be viewed from a safe distance, no selfies with the animals please! Children should be monitored to help keep wandering hands from touching or picking up unknown animals. Don't feed wildlife as this can encourage them to interact more with humans. Be rabies safe!