

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 42 (week ending 10/21/2023).

	Flathead County		State of Montana	
	MMWR Week 42	Total (2023 Year-to-Date)	MMWR Week 42	Total (2023 Year-to-Date)
Enteric Diseases				
Campylobacteriosis	2	18	11	372
Shigellosis	1	<5	<5	18
General Communicable Diseases				
Covid-19	70	1,249	644	19,681
Sexually Transmitted Diseases				
Chlamydia	4	185	66	2,964
Animal Bites	9	349	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 42**

- Enteric Diseases: Campylobacteriosis (11), Giardiasis (2), Salmonellosis (4), Shiga toxin-producing Escherichia coli (STEC) (4), Shigellosis (2)
- General Communicable Diseases: COVID-19 (644), Latent TB Infection (LTBI) (4), Legionellosis (1)
- Heavy Metal Exposures: Lead (4)
- Hepatitis: Hepatitis C, chronic (26)
- STD/HIV: Chlamydia (68), Gonorrhea (12), Syphilis, primary and secondary (3), Syphilis, latent (11)
- Vaccine Preventable Diseases: Mumps (1)
- Vector-borne Disease: Lyme disease (1)

Lead Exposure

Lead is a naturally occurring metal that can cause negative health affects with high exposures. People can be exposed to lead through

- Lead based paint when it peels and cracks
- Ingesting contaminated food or water
- Breathing in lead dust from renovation or construction
- Imported food and medicines that contain lead ingredients

Children younger than 6 are more likely to be exposed due to their hand-to-mouth behavior.

Everyday steps to prevent elevated lead exposure.

- **Wash hands.** Washing hands after working with certain materials or soil as they may contain lead particles.
- **Remove all shoes when you enter the house.** Taking your shoes off to prevent spreading lead contaminated dust through the home.
- **Be safe when working with lead.** If you work with lead, change into clean clothing before entering the home. Work shoes/clothes and tools should be kept separately from the rest of the family's
- **Renovate Safely.** Home repairs and renovations can release lead dust. Use approved methods for removing lead hazards from the home.