

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 16 (week ending 4/20/2024).

	Flathead County		State of Montana	
	MMWR Week 16	Total (2024 Year-to-Date)	MMWR Week 16	Total (2024 Year-to-Date)
General Communicable Diseases				
Covid-19	2	458	77	6,122
Sexually Transmitted Diseases				
Chlamydia	3	47	61	1,054
Syphilis, Primary or Secondary	1	9	2	66
Animal Bites	5	92	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 16:

- **Enteric Diseases:** Campylobacteriosis (6), Cryptosporidiosis (1), Giardiasis (2), Salmonellosis (6), Shiga toxin-producing Escherichia coli (STEC) (2), Shigellosis (1), Legionellosis (1), Vibriosis (1)
- **General Communicable Diseases:** COVID-19 (77), Tuberculosis, Latent Infection (LTBI) (2)
- **Heavy Metal Exposures:** Lead (2)
- **Hepatitis:** Hepatitis C, acute (1), Hepatitis C, chronic (11)
- **STD/HIV:** Chlamydia (62), Gonorrhea (10), Syphilis, latent (9), Syphilis, primary or secondary (2), Syphilis, congenital (1)
- **Vaccine Preventable Diseases:** Haemophilus influenzae, invasive (2), Streptococcus pneumoniae, invasive (1)
- **Zoonotic:** Rabies, post-exposure prophylaxis (PEP) (2)

Bats!

Bats return into the public’s attention each spring following migration or hibernation which they do during the winter. They are an important species within the ecosystem. Unfortunately, they also are the primary host of the rabies virus in Western Montana. Rabies is a universally fatal disease if contracted by humans. Because of this, potential bat exposures (including sleeping exposures) should be evaluated closely. The best way to prevent needing treatment for rabies following a bat exposure, is to trap the bat and have it tested for rabies through the Health Department.

For information about exposure risk, how to safely capture a bat for testing, or other rabies related information, visit:

<https://flathead.mt.gov/department-directory/health/population-health/communicable-disease/rabies-control-program>

