



Flathead City-County Health Department

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Community Health Services
Environmental Health Services
751-8130 FAX 751-8131
Family Planning Services
751-8150 FAX 751-8151
Home Health Services
751-6800 FAX 751-6807
WIC Services
751-8170 FAX 751-8171
Animal Shelter
752-1310 FAX 752-1546

For immediate release:

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Kalispell, MT –COVID-19 cases in Flathead County continue to surge at an alarming rate, putting strain on public health investigation staff. Case investigation staff of the Flathead City-County Health Department (FCCHD) are working diligently 7 days a week to complete case investigations and notify close contacts, but due to high case numbers FCCHD is currently unable to complete case investigations of positive COVID-19 cases within 24 hours.

All individuals who receive a positive COVID-19 test result should stay home for 10 days. Close contacts, people who are exposed to a positive case, should self-quarantine at home for 14 days since their last exposure. Instructions on how to quarantine, how to monitor symptoms and prevent the spread of COVID-19 can be found on the Flathead City-County Health Department website. Go to <https://flatheadhealth.org/close-contact-information/> and click on these documents:

- Potential COVID-19 Exposure Handout
- Information for Household Members of Close Contacts
- Caring for Someone Who Has Tested Positive for COVID-19

A log for monitoring symptoms, guidelines for cleaning and disinfecting, as well as other information from the CDC can be found at these links:

- [Cleaning and disinfecting for households](#)
- [Symptom Log](#)
- [Get the Facts about Coronavirus](#)

Any person who is exhibiting symptoms and would like to receive COVID-19 testing should contact their healthcare provider.

“Our staff is working hard to investigate cases as quickly and efficiently as we can, but our caseload is increasing by the day,” says Tamalee St. James Robinson, Interim Health Officer of the Flathead City-County Health Department. “If you receive a positive test result, please stay home for 10 days, you will receive a call from an FCCHD staff member as soon as we can. We appreciate your patience during this time.”

In response to the high volume of positive cases, the Flathead County Board of Health will be voting on COVID-19 Community Control measures at their monthly meeting on October 15th. For



more information about the upcoming meeting, please visit <https://flatheadhealth.org/administration/>.

Due to the large workload and strained capacity of FCCHD staff, media questions cannot be accommodated before October 15th. “We are pulling in as many staff members as we can to handle this surge of cases,” states Robinson. “It’s all hands on deck to mitigate further spread of COVID-19 in our community.”

Flathead County has received 186 new cases in the past 3 days, and to date, there has been twenty three COVID-19 related deaths in Flathead County. For more information about COVID-19, please visit <https://flatheadhealth.org/novel-coronavirus-covid-19/>.

