



CITY-COUNTY HEALTH DEPARTMENT

115 4th Street South, Great Falls, MT 59401 • 406-454-6950

NEWS RELEASE

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CONTACT

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Cascade County COVID-19 Vaccination List Now Available

Great Falls, MT – The Cascade City-County Health Department is happy to announce that a phone-in Cascade County COVID-19 Vaccination List is now available for people aged 70 or older who are not able to use the online portal at www.benefis.org/covidvaccine.

A dedicated phone line has been set up so that community members can call to be placed on the Vaccination List.

406-791-9250

We will begin logging messages left after 9 a.m. on Thursday, January 28.

This number is not a CCHD number and staff cannot transfer people to this line.

Due to very high call volume and limited staff, this will be a voicemail-only line. All messages are time-stamped and will be checked & logged multiple times per day, but callers should not expect a return call until someone calls to schedule their appointment. Like the online portal, the phone line is first-come, first-served. Please do not leave multiple messages on the Vaccination List phone line.

Callers must leave the following information in their message and should take care to speak clearly and slowly:

1. **Name**
2. **Date of birth (MM/DD/YYYY)**
3. **Phone**
4. **Address**

This information must be included in order for the caller to be placed on the list.

Each week, when Cascade County health care partners CCHD, Benefis, Alluvion, and Great Falls Clinic learn how much vaccine has been allocated by State for the following week's vaccination clinics at the



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ExpoPark, a certain number of slots will be reserved for people on the Vaccination List. This ensures that people who are unable to schedule using the online portal will be able to access some of the open slots. However, the public should be aware that a higher proportion of slots are available via the online portal, and individuals have a greater chance of getting an appointment using the online portal than the phone line.

If individuals wish to be placed on the waiting list but *do* have access to the Internet, or if they prefer a method where they can confirm that their information was received, they can email their information to vaccine@cascaedcountymt.gov instead of leaving a voicemail. Each email must include name, date of birth, phone number, and address. They will receive an auto-reply message confirming that their email was received.

We thank our community members for their patience in this trying time, where demand for the COVID-19 vaccine far outstrips supply. According to State data, over 10,000 people aged 70 or older live in Cascade County, and we anticipate a vaccine allocation of 1,000 to 1,500 doses per week from State. Another 16,000 people aged 16-69 with Tier 1-B qualifying health conditions live in Cascade County. Montana is currently working with a very limited supply of vaccine and understands that Cascade County can handle more vaccine than State & Federal governments can currently provide. The State continues to advocate for more vaccine and vaccination efforts will scale up quickly if more vaccine becomes available.

As a reminder, scheduling for the next round of appointment slots will open at 9 a.m. this Thursday, Jan. 28. These slots will be for appointments on Monday, Feb. 1, Wednesday, Feb. 3, and Friday, Feb. 5.

Slots are reserved on a first-come, first-served basis and fill extremely quickly, so community members who are eligible should go to www.Benefis.org/COVIDvaccine immediately at 9 a.m. on Thursday in order to secure their slots. People who cannot go to the website can leave a voicemail starting at 9 a.m. by calling 406-791-9250 and leaving a voicemail with name, date of birth, phone number, and address.

Vaccinations will take place at a walk-in clinic at Montana ExpoPark's Family Living Center, 400 3rd St. NW in Great Falls.

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Please contact Anna Attaway at 415-590-0916 for media opportunities.