



CITY-COUNTY HEALTH DEPARTMENT

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**NEWS RELEASE**

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**CONTACT**

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**Expect a Report of Non-Current COVID-19 Cases in Cascade County**

*Great Falls, MT* – The Cascade City-County Health Department would like to announce that a backlog of older COVID-19 cases will be reported by the State early this week.

Due to a reporting error by one of our County's health care partners, approximately 370 non-current COVID-19 cases were not reported to State in a timely fashion and thus have not been reported to the public. Cascade County residents can expect a surge in cases reported by the Montana Department of Public Health and Human Services in the next few days.

However, because each of these cases tested positive between late December and Wednesday, March 10, they will not be used in calculating the COVID-19 case rate for Wednesday, March 17.

Four of these cases were tested between March 4<sup>th</sup> and March 10<sup>th</sup>, but it does not significantly change the case rate for that week. The case rate prior to these cases was 8 per 100,000; after these four old cases were reported, the case rate went up to 8.95 per 100,000—still falling under the threshold of 10 per 100,000. Thus, last week (Thurs 3/4 to Weds 3/10) remains the first of two, hopefully, consecutive weeks with a case rate of 10 or less per 100,000.

In short: the case rate calculations for Wednesday, March 17, will not be affected by this high number of reported cases.

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***For media opportunities, call Anna Attaway: 415-590-0916***

***If you are a member of the public, please call 406-454-6950***