



NEWS RELEASE

CONTACT

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Influenza Deaths

Great Falls, MT — January 2nd, 2026 - We regret to announce the death of two Cascade County resident from influenza in the closing days of 2025. Both the individuals were under the age of 70.

The deaths in Cascade County last week were not Montana's first during the 2025-2026 respiratory illness season. 393 influenza infections, 38 of which required hospitalization, have been confirmed in Cascade County over the past 4 weeks.

CCHD encourages all residents to wash their hands or use hand sanitizer regularly and stay home when sick to limit spread. Immunization remains the best form of protection against serious outcomes of respiratory illnesses, such as hospitalization or death due to infection. Immunizations for flu and COVID-19 are available at CCHD by walk-in or appointment.

In addition, immunization for respiratory syncytial virus (RSV) is available by appointment at CCHD. During the 2024-2025 season, there were 235 confirmed RSV cases in Cascade County. Immunization is available, while supplies remain, for the following eligibility groups:

- Adults aged 60 and older.

- Women who are 32-36 weeks pregnant (immunization provides protection against severe RSV illness in the recipient's baby for up to 6 months after birth).

- Newborns and babies under 1 year of age and born during or entering their first RSV season; and

- Children up to 24 months who remain at risk of severe RSV disease through their second RSV season.

Please call **406-454-6950** to schedule an appointment or for more information.

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If you are a member of the public, please call: (406) 454-6950