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News release

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**More than half of county's eligible population fully vaccinated,
incentive campaign rules to be announced**

An estimated 51 percent of the eligible population in Butte-Silver Bow has been fully vaccinated against COVID-19, and officials are hoping that an upcoming campaign incentivizing people to get vaccinated will increase that percentage.

“In terms of our eligible population being fully vaccinated, Butte-Silver Bow is third in the state in regard to that metric,” Health Officer Karen Sullivan said Monday. “We want 75 percent to 80 percent of our entire population eventually vaccinated, so our work is cut out for us, and we think the incentive campaign will help us to get there.”

Only Missoula County, with 54 percent of its eligible population fully vaccinated, and Deer Lodge County, at 52 percent, lead Butte-Silver Bow in the percentage of eligible population fully vaccinated.

A news conference will be held at 10 a.m. Thursday, May 27 at Montana Tech to announce to the public the rules of the upcoming \$500,000 vaccine incentive campaign, under which two \$10,000 weekly awards and three \$5,000 weekly awards will be presented over 15 weeks this summer and early fall. Those fully vaccinated against COVID-19 will be eligible.

The \$500,000 for the incentive campaign was recently donated by the Town Pump Charitable Foundation.

“Being vaccinated against the COVID virus is all about health, but some people are yet uncertain about the available vaccines,” Sullivan said. “We are encouraging people to learn everything they can about the vaccine models – Pfizer, Moderna and Johnson & Johnson – and to get vaccinated. Our incentive campaign may encourage those still on the fence to get vaccinated. The odds of winning are pretty good.”

In Butte-Silver Bow, 15,403 individuals are fully immunized. More information on local and state immunization rates may be found at <https://montana.maps.arcgis.com/apps/MapSeries/index.html?appid=7c34f3412536439491adcc2103421d4b>.

A pop-up vaccination clinic will be held from 3 to 6 p.m. Thursday, May 27 at Town Pump, Elizabeth Warren and Harrison Avenue. Those ages 12 and older are welcome, with all three vaccine models available.

A mass vaccination clinic will be held from 2 to 6:30 p.m. Tuesday, June 8 at the Butte Civic Center, with those ages 12 and older welcome – all three vaccination models will be available at this clinic as well. Registration is available at <https://www.butteciviccenter.com> or at 406-497-5008. Walk-ins are also welcomed. This clinic will also feature second shots – those coming for a second shot are asked to come at the same time they received their first shot.



THE CITY-COUNTY OF Butte-Silver Bow

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Pharmacies continue to be locations where COVID-19 vaccines can be scheduled and obtained. More information may be found at <https://vaccinefinder.org>.

On Monday, the Health Department released its weekly COVID-19 data report. As of Sunday, May 23, the department was reporting 4,116 positive cases in the county, since Butte-Silver Bow was informed of its first COVID-19 case March 13, 2020. Of those, 4,025 have recovered, and five cases remain active.

For the week of May 15-21, the Health Department reported six newly confirmed cases of COVID-19, down two cases from the previous week of May 8-14, when eight new cases were reported.

Based on those six new cases, daily average cases for the week of May 15-21 was .85. Cases per 100,000 population for the week of May 15-21 was 2.45.

The county's current positivity rate – the percent of people testing positive for the COVID-19 virus in a given time period – decreased to 1 percent in the time period of May 12-18, down from 1.4 percent during the previous time period.

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