From:	Jim Conkle
To:	jmohr@missoulacounty.us; bcc@missoulacounty.us; Grp. City Council and City Web Site; Tyler Christensen
Cc:	Jim Conkle
Subject:	Covid Phase 1B Tier 1 Priority
Date:	Tuesday, February 9, 2021 2:33:42 PM

Thanks for your time on this issue.

1) Phase 1 B Tier 1 allows for those over 70 and for People of Color / Native Americans of any age to receive vaccination.
There is no requirement for an underlying health condition.
There has been no reporting as to whether individuals in the above classes with underlying health conditions are successfully
obtaining a vaccination appointment. The last open clinic filled up over the internet in 8 minutes. With a first come first serve process
(let alone the access to the internet concern), I theorize a large % of the highest priority risk population are not successfully getting a
vaccination appointment.

With limited supply at this time, I suggest requiring an underlying health condition would help target the most vulnerable.

2) I have attempted to find data to support Missoula's Tier 1 classifications. I certainly could have missed it in my search.
If you have data to support it, I would appreciate seeing it.

The CDC priorities (Published 12/20/20) states:
Recommendations made with one of the goals being "reduce the extra burden Covid 19 is having on people already facing disparities"
The CDC suggested "essential front line workers" and 'those over 75 should be in Phase 1 B.
They encouraged the inclusion of "essential front line workers" to address the "disparity issues" disproportionately affecting the
population who fills those jobs, such as grocery store workers.

Montana DPPHS priorities (Published 12/24/20) states (in part):
1 B includes "those over 75" and "People of Color and Native Americans who may be at elevated risks for Covid 19 complications"
I believe the policy statement "at elevated risks for Covid 19 complications" includes this population at any age and with no requirement
for an underlying health condition. I question if data supports that policy position.

The serious complications / hospitalizations / deaths data documents the disparate impact on Native Americans and People of Color.
However, the data on serious complications / hospitalizations / deaths as to older people also show a disparate impact.
Also, the factor of underlying health conditions substantially change the risk.
As I tried to crunch the cost / benefit risk numbers as to all the factors, I suggest, an expert analysis could determine a more targeted
distribution plan during this time of limited availability.. At some point on the data graph, an older person with an underlying health
condition is at greater risk than a younger Native American or Person of Color who has no underlying health conditions. For example it
might find: The risk factor equivalent is "over 40 for Native American and Person of Color with no underlying health conditions"
as compared to "over 65 with an underlying health condition". Based directly on the data, I suggest a possible benefit to a

modification of Tier 1.

With full selfish disclosure, I chose over 65 in the example above to exclude myself, because the reason I am following this issue closely is
that I am 64 with an underlying heart condition caused by a birth defect.

Thanks for your time.
Jim Conkle
Missoula