

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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Big Horn County Public Health Officer Orders Quarantine for Non-residents Coming into County for Non-work Related Reasons

Non-residents traveling to Big Horn County for work must follow guidelines

HARDIN, MONTANA (April 10, 2020) - To curtail the spread of the COVID-19 pandemic in Big Horn County, the Public Health Officer today announced an order effective immediately that :

Non-work-related travel by non-residents: All persons traveling into Big Horn County, Montana for non-work related purposes must self-quarantine in their lodging for a minimum of 14 consecutive calendar days from the date of their arrival or until they leave the County. In addition, any person who is already in the County for non-work related purposes must immediately self-quarantine for the remainder of a 14-day period beginning on the date of their arrival in the County or until their departure.

Work-related travel by non-residents: These self-quarantine restrictions do not apply to public health, public safety (law enforcement), or healthcare workers. However, these workers must take precautions including the wearing of a mask, practice appropriate social distancing, and checking their temperature a minimum of twice per day.

Travel by County residents: If a resident of Big Horn County leaves the County and returns, the resident must take precautions including wearing a mask, practicing social distancing, and checking their temperature a minimum of twice per day for a 14-consecutive calendar day period. If a person leaves and returns to the County again, the 14-day period begins again.

Reporting suspected infection: The Public Health Officer further stated that any person who is known to be infected or strongly suspected to be infected with COVID-19 shall immediately report, verbally or in writing, to the Office of the Public Health Officer at (406) 665-8720 or publichealth@bighorncountymt.gov. After reporting, that person will be required to isolate until released by the Public Health Officer or Public Health Nurse for Big Horn County.

Limit on gatherings: All non-essential gatherings of more than 10 people are prohibited and any gatherings deemed essential are limited to 10 people and those individuals must practice social distancing. Essential gatherings include funerals, weddings, and religious services.

Penalties: A person convicted under the order is guilty of a misdemeanor with each day constituting a new offense.

The Public Health Officer is recommending that everyone advocate and practice the carrying and use of non-medical grade masks when outside the home and within six (6) feet of others. Homemade masks

and mask kits are available at the Big Horn County Public Health Office. Commercially-available, medical-grade masks should be save for use by healthcare providers.

To view the full order, please visit the Big Horn County website at <https://www.bighorncountymt.gov/order-of-big-horn-county-public-health-officer-no-2020-3/> or the County's response to COVID-19 on Facebook at <https://www.facebook.com/BHCMTResponds/>.

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Big Horn County is the sixth largest county in Montana, at approximately 5,023 square miles, and with a population exceeding 13,000. The local government was established January 13, 1913. Hardin is the County Seat. <https://www.bighorncountymt.gov/>