

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE****FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:**

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## Big Horn County Announces 62<sup>nd</sup> and 63<sup>rd</sup> Deaths from COVID-19

### *Seven (7) newly-confirmed cases added*

**HARDIN, MONTANA** (December 30, 2020) – Big Horn County today announced the 62<sup>nd</sup> and 63<sup>rd</sup> deaths of County residents due to complications from the 2019 novel coronavirus (COVID-19). One of the deceased is a man in his 60's who was hospitalized prior to his death yesterday, Tuesday, December 29, 2020. The second decedent is a woman in her 40's who was hospitalized prior to her death today, Wednesday, December 30, 2020.

It is particularly heartbreaking to lose a loved one at the holidays and the Big Horn County COVID-19 Response Unified Coalition send our thoughts and prayers to their family and friends on their deaths.

This is the 14<sup>th</sup> and 15<sup>th</sup> deaths of County residents recorded in December. The County's fatality rate is 2.9% (63 deaths out of 2,153 total cases).

Big Horn County added seven (7) newly-confirmed cases of COVID-19 on Tuesday, December 29, 2020. One (1) of the new patients was asymptomatic (without symptoms) and six (6) presented with symptoms when tested. Two (2) patients likely contracted the virus through community spread and five (5) cases could be traced by public health to previously-known cases of coronavirus.

The new cases are:

Age Ranges	Female	Male	Totals
Under age 10	-	-	-
Age 10 – 19	-	3	<b>3</b>
Age 20 – 29	-	1	<b>1</b>
Age 30 – 39	-	-	-
Age 40 – 49	-	-	-
Age 50 – 59	1	-	<b>1</b>
Age 60 – 69	1	-	<b>1</b>
Over age 70	1	-	<b>1</b>
<b>Totals</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>4</b>	<b>7</b>

Total confirmed positive cases of COVID-19 in Big Horn County:

Age Ranges	Female	Male	Totals	Recovered	Active	Deaths
Under age 10	85	86	<b>171</b>			
Age 10 – 19	177	174	<b>351</b>			
Age 20 – 29	181	154	<b>335</b>			
Age 30 – 39	185	168	<b>353</b>			
Age 40 – 49	150	115	<b>265</b>			
Age 50 – 59	152	109	<b>261</b>			
Age 60 – 69	134	105	<b>239</b>			
Over age 70	107	71	<b>178</b>			
<b>Totals</b>	<b>1,171</b>	<b>982</b>	<b>2,153</b>	<b>2,050</b>	<b>40</b>	<b>63</b>

Recoveries in the County remain at 2,050. 63 persons are deceased. Of the 40 active cases, 22 patients are quarantining and recovering at home. The number of Big Horn County resident patients currently hospitalized in the region is 18.

Month	Number of Cases	Number of Deaths
April	3	-
May	27	-
June	44	3
July	249	5
August	357	8
September	294	7
October	456	17
November	473	8
December (12/29/2020 to date)	250	15
<b>Total since Pandemic Began</b>	<b>2,153</b>	<b>63</b>

As the new year approaches – and even if you have recently received the first dose of a vaccine against COVID-19 – it is important to follow the three W’s: Wash your hands; Watch your distance from other people; Wear a mask. The County asks all residents to please continue stay home more often and to avoid events or gatherings. Also, the Board of County Commissioners and Board of Public Health ask everyone to wear a mask and social distance when outside of their homes and in public.

Tracking down contacts to a positive case (contact tracing) is one of the best tools public health can use to slow the spread of the virus. If you believe you were in the presence of a recently confirmed COVID-19 case for more than five (5) minutes, please call public health so that a nurse may interview you and determine what level of exposure you have:

- IHS Public Health Nursing: (406) 638-3478
- Big Horn County Public Health: (406) 665-8720

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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/> For more information about the County’s COVID-19 response, please visit our Facebook page at <https://www.facebook.com/BHCMTResponds>.