

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

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Big Horn County Announces Six (6) Newly-confirmed Cases of COVID-19

2,130 total cases since pandemic began; 16% of population of County

HARDIN, MONTANA (December 24, 2020) – Big Horn County added six (6) new cases of COVID-19 on Wednesday, December 23, 2020. Two (2) patients were asymptomatic (without symptoms) and four (4) presented with symptoms when tested. Three (3) patients likely contracted the virus through community spread and three (3) 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	1	-	1
Age 10 – 19	-	-	-
Age 20 – 29	-	-	-
Age 30 – 39	2	-	2
Age 40 – 49	-	-	-
Age 50 – 59	-	-	-
Age 60 – 69	1	1	2
Over age 70	-	1	1
Totals	4	2	6

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

Age Ranges	Female	Male	Totals	Recovered	Active	Deaths
Under age 10	83	85	168			
Age 10 – 19	176	171	347			
Age 20 – 29	180	152	332			
Age 30 – 39	183	165	348			
Age 40 – 49	150	113	263			
Age 50 – 59	151	108	259			
Age 60 – 69	132	105	237			
Over age 70	105	71	176			
Totals	1,160	970	2,130	1,975	95	60

The total number of cases since the pandemic began, 2,130, is approximately 16% of the population of Big Horn County, which totals around 13,318 people. Recoveries in the County remained at 1,975. 60 persons are deceased. Of the 95 active cases, 72 patients are quarantining and recovering at home. The number of Big Horn County resident patients currently hospitalized in the region is 23.

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 (12/23/2020 to date)	227	12
Total since Pandemic Began	2,130	60

With the holiday season, it is more important than ever 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. Masks are required when engaged in indoor activities, such as shopping. Masks are not necessary in the event that residents are outdoors and unlikely to come within six (6) feet of other people, such as while taking advantage of our beautiful county, to work, recreate, or exercise outside.

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>.