

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

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Big Horn County Announces 61st Death from COVID-19

13 newly-confirmed cases added

HARDIN, MONTANA (December 26, 2020) – Big Horn County today announced the 61st death of a County resident due to complications from the 2019 novel coronavirus (COVID-19). The decedent is a woman in her 70's who was hospitalized prior to her death yesterday, Friday, December 25, 2020.

The Big Horn County COVID-19 Response Unified Coalition send our heartfelt condolences to her family, friends, and the entire Big Horn County community on her tragic passing.

This is the 13th death of a County resident recorded in December. The County's fatality rate is 2.8% (61 deaths out of 2,143 total cases); however, the rate is 19.9% for those age 70 and older (35 deaths out of 177 cases).

Big Horn County added eight (8) new cases of COVID-19 on Thursday, December 24, 2020, and five (5) new cases on Saturday, December 26, 2020, for a total of 13 newly-confirmed cases. No testing results were made available on Friday, December 25, 2020 due to the Christmas holiday. Three (3) of the new patients were asymptomatic (without symptoms) and ten (10) presented with symptoms when tested. Seven (7) patients likely contracted the virus through community spread and six (6) 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	2
Age 10 – 19	1	-	1
Age 20 – 29	1	1	2
Age 30 – 39	2	2	4
Age 40 – 49	-	2	2
Age 50 – 59	-	1	1
Age 60 – 69	-	-	-
Over age 70	1	-	1
Totals	6	7	13

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

Age Ranges	Female	Male	Totals	Recovered	Active	Deaths
Under age 10	84	86	170			
Age 10 – 19	177	171	348			
Age 20 – 29	181	153	334			
Age 30 – 39	185	167	352			
Age 40 – 49	150	115	265			
Age 50 – 59	151	109	260			
Age 60 – 69	132	105	237			
Over age 70	106	71	177			
Totals	1,166	977	2,143	1,975	107	61

Recoveries in the County remain at 1,975. 61 persons are deceased. Of the 107 active cases, 83 patients are quarantining and recovering at home. The number of Big Horn County resident patients currently hospitalized in the region is 24.

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 (12/26/2020 to date)	240	13
Total since Pandemic Began	2,143	61

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>.