

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

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**Big Horn County Announces Seven (7) Newly-confirmed Cases of COVID-19**

*Includes three (3) age 60 and over*

**HARDIN, MONTANA** (December 23, 2020) – Big Horn County added seven (7) new cases of COVID-19 on Tuesday, December 22, 2020. Two (2) patients were asymptomatic (without symptoms) and five (5) presented with symptoms when tested. Three (3) patients likely contracted the virus through community spread and four (4) 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	2	1	<b>3</b>
Age 20 – 29	-	-	-
Age 30 – 39	-	-	-
Age 40 – 49	-	-	-
Age 50 – 59	1	-	<b>1</b>
Age 60 – 69	1	1	<b>2</b>
Over age 70	-	1	<b>1</b>
<b>Totals</b>	<b>4</b>	<b>3</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	82	85	<b>167</b>			
Age 10 – 19	176	171	<b>347</b>			
Age 20 – 29	180	152	<b>332</b>			
Age 30 – 39	181	165	<b>346</b>			
Age 40 – 49	150	113	<b>263</b>			
Age 50 – 59	151	108	<b>259</b>			
Age 60 – 69	131	104	<b>235</b>			
Over age 70	105	70	<b>175</b>			
<b>Totals</b>	<b>1,156</b>	<b>968</b>	<b>2,124</b>	<b>1,975</b>	<b>90</b>	<b>59</b>

Recoveries in the County remained at 1,975. 59 persons are deceased. Of the 90 active cases, 66 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 (12/21/2020 to date)	221	11
<b>Total since Pandemic Began</b>	<b>2,124</b>	<b>59</b>

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>.