

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

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## Big Horn County Announces 59<sup>th</sup> Death from COVID-19

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

**HARDIN, MONTANA** (December 17, 2020) – Big Horn County today announced the 59<sup>th</sup> death of a County resident due to complications from the 2019 novel coronavirus (COVID-19). The decedent is a man in his 80's who was not hospitalized prior to his death today, Thursday, December 17, 2020.

The Big Horn County COVID-19 Response Unified Coalition is truly sorry to learn of his loss and send our heartfelt condolences to his family, friends, and the entire Big Horn County community.

This is the 11<sup>th</sup> death recorded in December. The County's fatality rate is 2.8% (59 deaths out of 2,096 total cases); however, the rate is 19.3% for those age 70 and older (33 deaths out of 171 cases) and 29% for men age 70 and over (20 deaths out of 69 cases).

Big Horn County added seven (7) new cases of COVID-19 on Thursday, December 17, 2020. All seven (7) 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	-	1	1
Age 20 – 29	-	-	-
Age 30 – 39	2	-	2
Age 40 – 49	-	-	-
Age 50 – 59	-	1	1
Age 60 – 69	-	1	1
Over age 70	1	1	2
<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	81	84	165			
Age 10 – 19	170	169	339			
Age 20 – 29	179	151	330			
Age 30 – 39	178	164	342			
Age 40 – 49	149	111	260			
Age 50 – 59	150	108	258			
Age 60 – 69	128	103	231			
Over age 70	102	69	171			
<b>Totals</b>	<b>1,137</b>	<b>959</b>	<b>2,096</b>	<b>1,910</b>	<b>127</b>	<b>59</b>

Recoveries in the County remain at 1,910. 59 persons are deceased. Of the 127 active cases, 106 patients are quarantining and recovering at home. The number of Big Horn County resident patients currently hospitalized in the region is 21.

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 (12/17/2020 to date)	193	11
<b>Total since Pandemic Began</b>	<b>2,096</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>.