

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

**FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:**

Rhonda Johnson, Public Information Officer, Big Horn County  
(406) 679-0572

[rjohnson@bighorncountymt.gov](mailto:rjohnson@bighorncountymt.gov)

**Big Horn County Announces Two (2) Deaths from COVID-19**  
*17 deaths in month of October; 40 total since pandemic began*

**HARDIN, MONTANA** (November 1, 2020) – Big Horn County today announced the 39<sup>th</sup> and 40<sup>th</sup> death of County residents due to complications from the 2019 novel coronavirus (COVID-19). One (1) decedent is a man in his 60’s who was hospitalized prior to his death and died on Friday, October 30, 2020. One (1) decedent is a woman in her 80’s who was hospitalized prior to her death. She died on Saturday, October 31, 2020.

These represent the 16<sup>th</sup> and 17<sup>th</sup> deaths recorded in October. With these deaths, the County’s fatality rate rose to 2.8% (40 deaths out of 1,430 total cases).

The Big Horn County COVID-19 Response Unified Coalition’s heartfelt thoughts go out to their families, friends, and the entire community of Big Horn County in our time of sorrow.

Month	Number of Cases	Number of Deaths
April	3	-
May	27	-
June	44	3
July	249	5
August	357	8
September	294	7
October to date (10/31/2020)	456	17
<b>Total since Pandemic Began</b>	<b>1,430</b>	<b>40</b>

With the rising trend in new COVID-19 cases, 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

###

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>.