

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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Big Horn County Announces Two (2) Deaths from COVID-19

26 newly-confirmed cases of the coronavirus

HARDIN, MONTANA (October 15, 2020) – Big Horn County today announced two (2) deaths of County residents due to complications from the 2019 novel coronavirus (COVID-19). One decedent is a man over the age of 70 who was not hospitalized prior to his death. The second decedent is a woman in her 50’s who had been hospitalized prior to her death.

With their passing, Big Horn County’s death toll from COVID-19 has reached 34 and the County’s fatality rate increased to 2.9% (34 out of 1,172 total).

The Big Horn County COVID-19 Response Unified Coalition is so sorry to hear of their passing. We hope that the love of family and friends will comfort and strengthen in the days ahead.

Big Horn County added 26 new cases of COVID-19 on Thursday, October 15, 2020. Of the 26 new patients, 22 presented with symptoms and four (4) were asymptomatic (without symptoms) when tested. Five (5) patients were found through contact tracing of previously-reported patients and 21 likely contracted the virus through community spread, as there are no known contacts with previous cases at this time.

The new cases are:

Age Ranges	Female	Male	Totals
Under age 10	1	1	2
Age 10 – 19	3	2	5
Age 20 – 29	2	1	3
Age 30 – 39	3	2	5
Age 40 – 49	4	-	4
Age 50 – 59	3	-	3
Age 60 – 69	1	1	2
Over age 70	-	2	2
Totals	17	9	26

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

Age Ranges	Female	Male	Totals	Recovered	Active	Deaths
Under age 10	49	52	101			
Age 10 – 19	87	98	185			
Age 20 – 29	100	94	194			
Age 30 – 39	101	109	210			
Age 40 – 49	78	58	136			
Age 50 – 59	75	63	138			
Age 60 – 69	67	58	125			
Over age 70	47	36	83			
Totals	604	568	1,172	963	175	34

Recoveries in Big Horn County remain at 963. 34 persons are deceased. Of the 175 active cases, 157 patients are quarantining and recovering at home. The number of Big Horn County resident patients currently hospitalized in the region is 18.

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 (10/15/2020)	198	11
Total since Pandemic Began	1,172	34

As fall deepens and winter approaches, more activities are moving indoors, making the spread of the coronavirus more likely. 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>.