

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

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**Big Horn County Announces 24<sup>th</sup> Death from COVID-19**

***17 newly-confirmed cases***

**HARDIN, MONTANA** (October 1, 2020) – Big Horn County today announced the 24<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 hospitalized prior to his death.

The Big Horn County COVID-19 Response Unified Coalition offers our deepest sympathies to his family, friends, and the community of Big Horn County for his tragic loss.

Big Horn County added 17 new cases of COVID-19 on Thursday, October 1, 2020. Of the 17 patients, 15 presented with symptoms and two (2) were asymptomatic (without symptoms) when tested. Twelve (12) likely contracted the virus through community spread, as there are no known contacts with previous cases at this time and five (5) patients were found through contact tracing of previously-reported patients.

The new cases are:

<b>Age Ranges</b>	<b>Female</b>	<b>Male</b>	<b>Totals</b>
Under age 10	-	-	-
Age 10 – 19	1	1	<b>2</b>
Age 20 – 29	-	3	<b>3</b>
Age 30 – 39	3	2	<b>5</b>
Age 40 – 49	1	-	<b>1</b>
Age 50 – 59	1	1	<b>2</b>
Age 60 – 69	3	-	<b>3</b>
Over age 70	-	1	<b>1</b>
<b>Totals</b>	<b>9</b>	<b>8</b>	<b>17</b>

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

<b>Age Ranges</b>	<b>Female</b>	<b>Male</b>	<b>Totals</b>	<b>Recovered</b>	<b>Active</b>	<b>Deaths</b>
Under age 10	45	42	<b>87</b>			
Age 10 – 19	72	78	<b>150</b>			
Age 20 – 29	88	86	<b>174</b>			
Age 30 – 39	88	98	<b>186</b>			
Age 40 – 49	63	49	<b>112</b>			
Age 50 – 59	58	56	<b>114</b>			
Age 60 – 69	54	49	<b>103</b>			
Over age 70	40	25	<b>65</b>			
<b>Totals</b>	<b>508</b>	<b>483</b>	<b>991</b>	<b>811</b>	<b>156</b>	<b>24</b>

Recoveries in Big Horn County remain at 811. 24 persons are deceased. Of the 156 active cases, 132 patients are quarantining and recovering at home. The number of Big Horn County resident patients currently hospitalized in hospitals in the region increased from 20 to 24.

Month	Number of Cases
April	3
May	27
June	44
July	249
August	357
September	294
October to date (10/01/2020)	17

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.

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>.