

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

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**Big Horn County Announces 16 Newly-confirmed Cases of COVID-19*****Recoveries increase to 749***

**HARDIN, MONTANA** (September 18, 2020) – Big Horn County added 16 new cases of COVID-19 on Friday, September 18, 2020. Of the 16, 11 patients presented with symptoms and five (5) were asymptomatic (without symptoms) when tested. Ten (10) likely contracted the virus through community spread, as there are no known contacts with previous cases at this time. Six (6) patients were found through contact tracing of previously-reported patients.

The new cases are:

Age Ranges	Female	Male	Totals
Under age 10	-	-	-
Age 10 – 19	1	1	2
Age 20 – 29	2	2	4
Age 30 – 39	5	2	7
Age 40 – 49	1	-	1
Age 50 – 59	1	1	2
Age 60 – 69	-	-	-
Over age 70	-	-	-
<b>Totals</b>	<b>10</b>	<b>6</b>	<b>16</b>

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

Age Ranges	Female	Male	Totals	Recovered	Active	Deaths
Under age 10	37	37	74			
Age 10 – 19	60	69	129			
Age 20 – 29	72	76	148			
Age 30 – 39	73	93	166			
Age 40 – 49	55	43	98			
Age 50 – 59	50	54	104			
Age 60 – 69	47	43	90			
Over age 70	35	21	56			
<b>Totals</b>	<b>429</b>	<b>436</b>	<b>865</b>	<b>749</b>	<b>95</b>	<b>21</b>

Recoveries in Big Horn County increased by 64 to 749. 21 persons are deceased. Of the 95 active cases, 81 patients are quarantining and recovering at home. The number of Big Horn County resident patients currently hospitalized is 14.

Month	Number of Cases
April	3
May	27
June	44
July	249
August	357
September to date (9/18/2020)	185

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>.