

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

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**Big Horn County Announces 15 Newly-confirmed Cases of COVID-19**

*Includes three (3) children under age 20*

**HARDIN, MONTANA** (September 16, 2020) – Big Horn County added 15 new cases of COVID-19 on Wednesday, September 16, 2020. Of the 15, 11 patients presented with symptoms and four (4) were asymptomatic (without symptoms) when tested. Nine (9) 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	1	1	2
Age 10 – 19	-	1	1
Age 20 – 29	-	2	2
Age 30 – 39	-	1	1
Age 40 – 49	2	2	4
Age 50 – 59	1	1	2
Age 60 – 69	2	-	2
Over age 70	1	-	1
<b>Totals</b>	<b>7</b>	<b>8</b>	<b>15</b>

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

Age Ranges	Female	Male	Totals	Recovered	Active	Deaths
Under age 10	34	37	71			
Age 10 – 19	58	68	126			
Age 20 – 29	68	74	142			
Age 30 – 39	68	90	158			
Age 40 – 49	54	43	97			
Age 50 – 59	49	52	101			
Age 60 – 69	46	43	89			
Over age 70	34	20	54			
<b>Totals</b>	<b>411</b>	<b>427</b>	<b>838</b>	<b>685</b>	<b>132</b>	<b>21</b>

Recoveries in Big Horn County remains at 685. 21 persons are deceased. Of the 132 active cases, 120 patients are quarantining and recovering at home. The number of Big Horn County resident patients currently hospitalized is 12.

Month	Number of Cases
April	3
May	27
June	44
July	249
August	357
September to date (9/16/2020)	158

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>.