

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

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## **Big Horn County Requests Cooperation from Residents In Slowing the Spread of COVID-19**

*Residents asked to stay home more often and wear masks when outside home*

**HARDIN, MONTANA** (August 6, 2020) – The Big Horn County Commissioners and the Big Horn County Health Board, along with the Crow Tribal Executive Branch leadership, are alarmed by the recent rise in cases and increase in deaths from COVID-19 in our County. Big Horn County currently has the highest per capita percentage of cases of the coronavirus in the State of Montana, with over four times the number of cases per 100,000 of any other county in the state.

<b>Active Cases of COVID-19 by County</b>						<i>as of 8/4/2020</i>
	<b>County</b>	<b>Population</b>	<b>Total Cases</b>	<b>% Pop.</b>	<b>Active Cases</b>	<b>% Pop.active</b>
1	Big Horn County	13,376	363	2.714%	213	1.592%
2	Yellowstone County	157,816	1,118	0.708%	567	0.359%
3	Lake County	29,774	169	0.568%	51	0.171%
4	Wibaux County	1,175	3	0.255%	2	0.170%
5	Beaverhead County	9,393	50	0.532%	15	0.160%
6	Flathead County	98,082	272	0.277%	139	0.142%
7	Silver Bow County	34,814	67	0.192%	49	0.141%
8	Hill County	16,439	41	0.249%	22	0.134%
9	Madison County	8,218	78	0.949%	10	0.122%
10	Daniels County	1,753	3	0.171%	2	0.114%

According to the Board of County Commissioners and County Public Health Board, **we don't need more legislation at this time, we need more cooperation.**

"If we could get most of the residents of our County to stay home more often, for two (2) weeks, we could get a handle on the virus, lowering the number of infected people and the number of people exposed to the virus," said Dr. Carol Greimann, MD, Big Horn County Public Health Officer. "COVID-19 can be spread by riding in a car with someone not from your household, by going to a party, by attending an indoor event (including an athletic event), or by taking a lunch break with your coworkers – particularly when any of those activities are done without wearing masks or when wearing a mask incorrectly." Dr. Greimann reminds residents that, to be effective, a mask must cover a person's mouth AND nose, preventing droplets of virus from spreading to others.

Big Horn County Commissioners and Public Health Board encourage everyone in Big Horn County to PLEASE STAY HOME FOR TWO (2) WEEKS if you can. If you have to go out, wear a mask and go by yourself, leaving the rest of your family safe at home. If you have to go to the store, call your neighbors,

pick up what they need, and drop it off outside their house. If we all work together to stay safe from the virus, we can stay healthy, not only physically and emotionally, but also economically.

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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>.