

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:

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**Big Horn County COVID-19 Response Unified Coalition
Announces Additional Mass Testing Sites**

Any resident wishing to be tested welcome and encouraged to test

HARDIN, MONTANA (May 22, 2020) –The Crow Tribe of Indians, Big Horn County Public Health, IHS Public Health Nursing, SCL Health Hardin Clinic, and Bighorn Valley Health Center, members of the Big Horn County COVID-19 Response Unified Coalition, will be hosting two (2) COVID-19 sentinel surveillance testing events next week as follows:

- Wednesday, May 27, 2020 from 10:00 a.m. to 6:00 p.m. at Crow/Northern Cheyenne Hospital in Crow Agency
- Thursday, May 28, 2020 from 10:00 a.m. to 6:00 p.m. at Hardin High School in Hardin

Sentinel surveillance testing is random testing of a community to determine spread of a particular disease among that community. In this testing, the best data is achieved when a large number of people are tested.

Therefore, we are encouraging everyone who is willing to be tested to come in to and be tested. We especially want those between the ages of 18 and 36 years of age to come in for testing, as this is the age group that has seen the highest number of positive test results in our State. Everyone should please watch our Facebook page <https://www.facebook.com/BHCMTResponds> for more information, including further details and incentives.

Everyone is welcome at either testing event, whether a tribal member or non-tribal resident of Big Horn County. Those wishing to be tested are required to bring valid I.D. and provide an operational telephone number and physical address (not P.O. Box) for follow-up with testing results.

The Crow Tribe Incident Response and IHS Public Health Nursing, with the support of Big Horn County Public Health, recently tested nearly 500 people at testing events in Lodge Grass and Pryor on Wednesday, May 20, 2020 and Friday, May 22, 2020.

The Big Horn County COVID-19 Response Unified Coalition would like to thank Chairman A.J. Not Afraid of the Crow Tribe of Indians and Governor Steve Bullock of the State of Montana for their tireless efforts on behalf of the citizens of Big Horn County, allowing us to maximize the testing in our community.

IHS Public Health Nursing and Big Horn County Public Health wish to remind all residents of Big Horn County of the best ways to prevent the transmission of this illness: stay home; wash your hands thoroughly and often; clean and sanitize frequently touched surfaces and items; wear a mask when in public; stay at least six (6) feet away from other people; and avoid travel out of the County if at all possible. And if you are feeling sick, do not go to work or leave your home; rather, contact your healthcare provider for guidance.

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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>.