

April 16, 2020 "Don't JUMP the GUN, you'll give COVID another RUN"

2:00 PM

Big Horn County

COVID-19 Update/Response

### **For Immediate Release**

President Donald Trump is expected to unveil today new federal guidelines to begin the process of reopening the country. Acknowledging encouraging trends in the COVID pandemic, Trump conceded that final decisions on how and when to reopen parts of the economy will fall to individual governors. But he still plans to provide some guidelines and benchmarks to help advise states on easing economic impacts. The President said, *"These encouraging developments have put us in a very strong position to finalize guidelines for states on reopening the country... It's very exciting."*

Trump's COVID Task Force believe US numbers are leveling. Dr. Anthony Fauci said, *"There's no doubt what we've seen over the last several days is a flattening out."* Still, officials are warning that states shouldn't yet ease up on social distancing measures because a resurgence of the virus is highly likely once Americans begin getting out of the house again. *"You want your resources to be able to very efficiently in real-time identify, isolate, and contact trace,"* Fauci said.

We are behind the rest of the country in our peak, so I would expect that Governor Gordon will not relax measures in the next several weeks. With our peak not predicted until early May, the Wyoming Supreme Court has already extended the emergency orders for the state judiciary to May 31st. Other departments will likely follow. Utah just announced closing of schools for the rest of the year.

What will be key to preventing another deadly wave in the country are the tools to track and monitor new cases. The ability to widely test and do active secondary containment is going to be essential. We need the tests to do that.

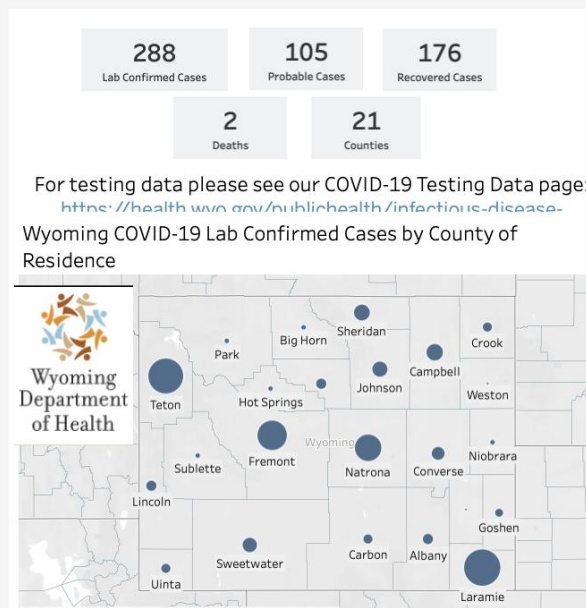


Three companies have developed antibody tests which are faster and easier to manufacture. These new tests have not been extensively tested but are being released under relaxed FDA guidelines. Abbott said it's shipping 1 million of the tests to customers immediately and plans to produce and ship up to 20 million tests by the end of June. But the FDA warns the tests could lead to false negatives, "A negative result may occur if you are tested early in your illness and your body hasn't had time to produce antibodies to infection."

So even with more tests we still will need to continue social distancing and those that have symptoms or test positive will need to be isolated at home. These measures need to be taken seriously. Those who ignore this are placing others at risk. If you have been directed to stay at home after testing. Please do. If you do not comply, you may be subject to criminal prosecution.

We now have **TWO DEATHS** in Wyoming with **288** cases and **105** probable cases, and we are fortunate that **164** people have fully recovered. We have 1 confirmed and 1 probable in Big Horn County. But as ongoing investigation of contacts continues, it appears that dozens of our young people have been exposed. Those ignoring social distancing and gathering restrictions by sneaking off to parties are endangering themselves, their friends, their families and our whole community.

## COVID-19 Map and Statistics



Wyoming has not seen its peak yet and we can't let up yet.

Don't jump the GUN, you'll give COVID another RUN.

### U.S. Coronavirus Measures Are Justified, UW Economists Find

The potential benefits of social distancing in saving lives far outweigh the projected damage to the economy, according to the economists from the Department of Economics in the UW College of Business. *"Our benefit-cost analysis shows that the extensive social distancing measures being adopted in the U.S. likely do not constitute an overreaction,"* says Assistant Professor Linda Thunstrom. *"the economic benefits of lives saved substantially outweigh the value of the projected losses to the U.S. economy."* UW economists found the benefits of public health policies will outweigh the economic costs by \$5.2 trillion.

If you need help finding a health care provider or additional information on COVID call **211**.

Anyone who feels that they may be at risk of harming themselves, or who knows of someone in immediate danger of harming themselves, should **call 911**. Anyone experiencing suicidal thoughts is encouraged to call the U.S. National Suicide Prevention Lifeline at [\*\*1-800-273-TALK \(8255\)\*\*](tel:1-800-273-TALK(8255)) or text **“WYO”** to **741-741** for the Crisis Text Line. Veterans can call: 1 800-273-8255.

Respectfully,  
David Weston, Fairbanks, MD, FAFP  
Big Horn County Health Officer  
and the entire  
Big Horn County Incident Management Team



For Sources of Information on COVID-19:

1. Big Horn County Public Health Website:  
<https://www.bighorncountyyw.gov>  
<https://www.bighorncountyyw.gov/departments/public-health>
2. Big Horn County COVID-19 INFORMATION LINE 307-568-4031  
Or Email us @ [covid-19@bighorncountyyw.gov](mailto:covid-19@bighorncountyyw.gov)
3. Park County Public Health Coronavirus Information Line: 754-1870 or 527-1870  
(Updated regularly). Big Horn County may use this.
4. Up to date announcements from Wyoming Department of Health as they are released Wyoming Department of Health  
Website: <https://health.wyo.gov/publichealth/infectious-disease-epidemiology-unit/disease/novel-coronavirus>.
5. CDC Website: <https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/community/index.html>
6. Wyoming Department of Health State Orders:  
<https://health.wyo.gov/publichealth/infectious-disease-epidemiology-unit/disease/novel-coronavirus/covid-19-orders-and-guidance/>

