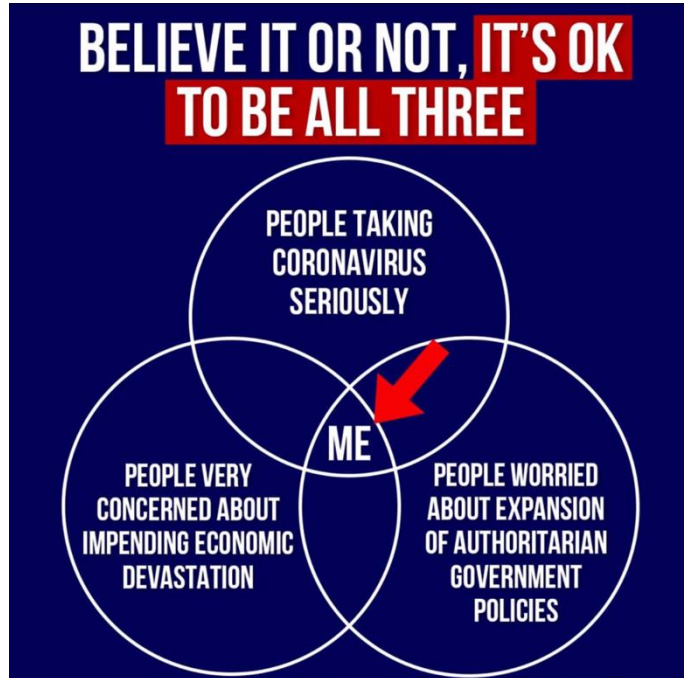


April 23, 2020 "Control the Spread, Shop Solo Instead"
4:00 PM
Big Horn County
COVID-19 Update/Response

For Immediate Release

I have answered a few questions about "returning to normalcy." As we look ahead with hope and plan for a graduated relaxation of restrictive measures, I hope we retain some of what has helped keep our county from exploding with cases. I hope we will still continue:

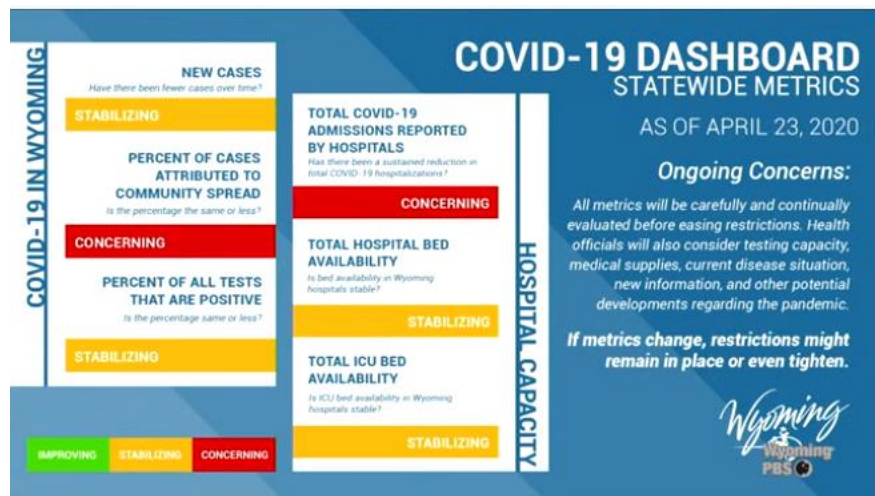
- to wash our hands frequently
- to maintain social distancing
- limit gatherings to <10
- find ways to connect online
- wear facial coverings in public
- refrain from handshaking
- restrict our non-essential travel
- shop for necessities alone
- continue online learning
- continue meeting via technology



We are not prepared to consider general exceptions to the Governor's Orders. He and his staff have a measured and balanced approach to protecting "public safety and getting our people back to work." We have been presented with several outdoor events that have well thought out proposals that maintain the current limits of social distancing and the Governor's Orders, while providing a valuable service to our community. These have been approved.

We understand everyone's eagerness to get back to normalcy, whatever that new normalcy will look like. We are eager too. Our primary responsibility is the public health and safety of our citizens. We will be following the recommendations of our Big Horn County Incident Command Team, 21 other County Health Officers, Dr. Harriet, the State Health

Officer, the Wyoming Medical Society, the Governor, the CDC, AND the President of the United States. All of these individuals, organizations and the data support that we are not yet ready to



implement a graduated relaxation of limits before April 30th. It will likely be later than that. We are in regular communication with our local and state leaders on making a plan to move forward to preserve our freedoms and our health. Please listen to the Governor's press release. We will outline more of his comments next week.



two weeks of declining cases before moving to the next phase. The guidelines stress that a "rebound" in case numbers should mean re-imposing some or all restrictions.

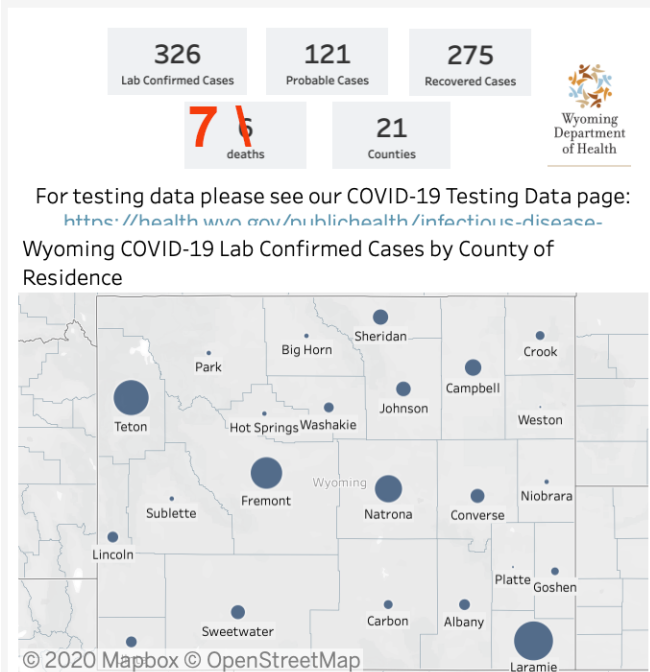
The guidelines outline that restaurants, movie theaters and sports venues could open in phase one if they practice "strict social distancing." However, schools, daycares and bars shouldn't reopen before phase two. I met yesterday with the four County School Superintendents and outlined my expectation that the Governor's team would indeed recommend to keep schools closed for the rest of the semester. That was confirmed.

We now have **seven** deaths in Wyoming with **325** cases and **121** probable cases, and we are fortunate that **275** people have fully recovered.

We will not make a decision that places our county citizens at risk. As we have not even seen a peak here in Big Horn County yet, we have no data to determine that COVID trajectory is decreasing according to the President's guidelines. More widespread testing will help us determine that. While new anti-body testing may help us assess our population and the extent of spread and trajectory of the illness. The rush to manufacturing and lack of FDA testing and refinement has these tests less accurate on a personal assessment and may provide more false negatives and false positives. Widespread testing will nevertheless be necessary to guide our decisions to move forward.

Trump's guidelines recommend each state documents a "downward trajectory" in COVID cases and flu-like illnesses for two weeks before beginning a three-phase relaxing of gathering and economic limits. States should document another

COVID-19 Map and Statistics



We have 1 confirmed case and 1 probable in Big Horn County. Wyoming has not seen its peak yet and we can't let up yet.

"Control the Spread, Shop Solo Instead"

FEMA has a great Rumor Control Website: <https://www.fema.gov/coronavirus/rumor-control?fbclid=IwAR1tKDWg1stPyDx1ALSu6OOX6XesD94LmFKySe52gYKkf6iShm2oLHGerPc>

Do your part to stop the spread of rumors by doing three easy things:

1. Find trusted sources of information.
2. Share information from trusted sources.
3. Discourage others from sharing information from unverified sources.

To find trusted sources, look for information from official public health and safety authorities. You can find many official sources at [coronavirus.gov](https://www.coronavirus.gov). Check your state and local government or emergency management websites and social media accounts for trusted information specific to your area.

On social media, be sure to check for a blue verified badge next to the account name. This tells you it's an official account. 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 \(8255\)](https://www.1800273talk.com) or text "WYO" to **741-741** for the Crisis Text Line. Veterans can call: 1 800-273-8255.

Respectfully,
David Weston, Fairbanks, MD, FAAFP
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

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/>