

March 24, 2020 "Counter COVID with Clean Counters"

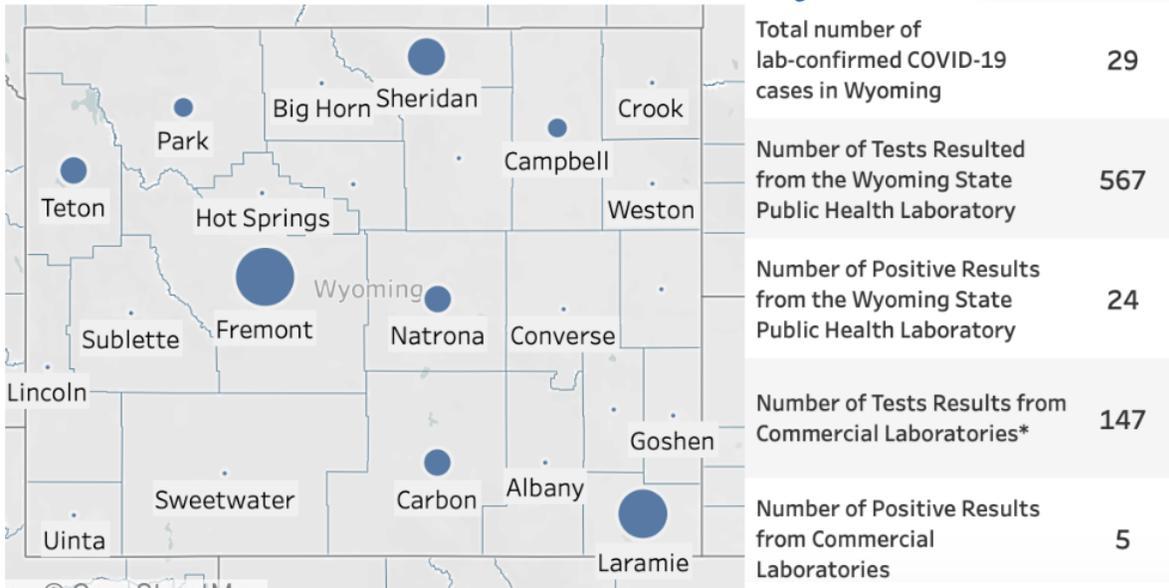
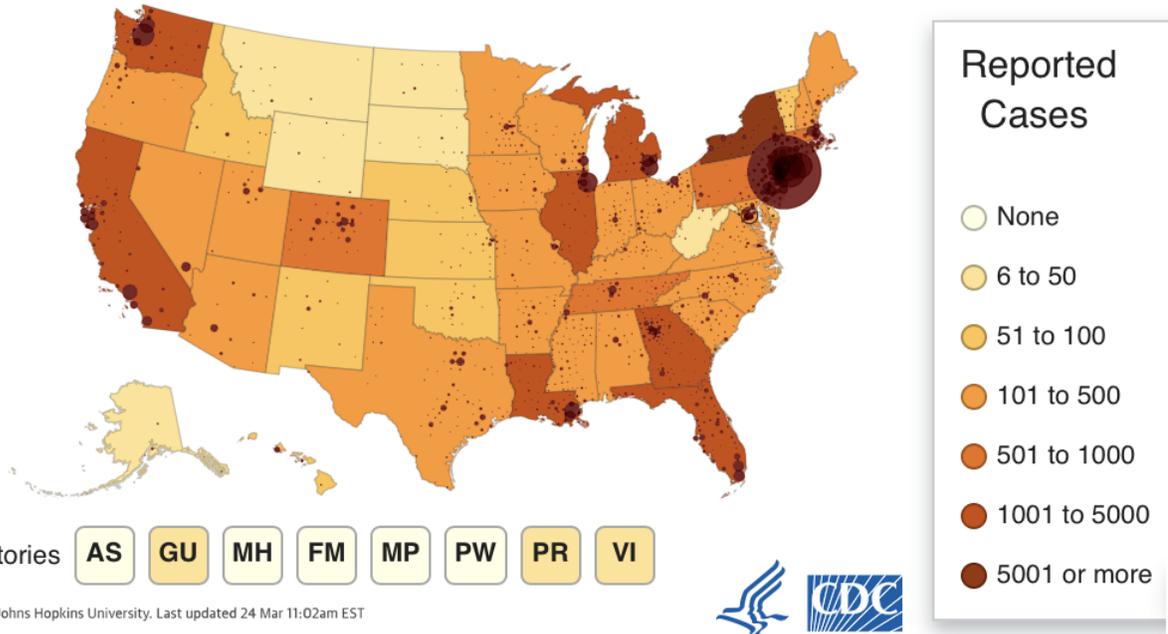
2:00 PM

Big Horn County

COVID-19 Update/Response

For Immediate Release

As of 11 am Tuesday, we have NO confirmed cases in Big Horn County! We have 29 cases in the State of Wyoming.



Yesterday I reported that the virus is gone on surfaces within 2-3 days. That was our best understanding at the time. Today it was released that it may last longer on surfaces than previously thought. Japanese investigators found traces of the COVID-19 coronavirus in some *Diamond Princess* cruise ship cabins up to 17 days after they were vacated. This is new data. So, it is even more important to keep all your surfaces wiped down. Especially, keyboards, counters and commonly shared surfaces.

The American Academy of Otolaryngology-Head and Neck Surgery announced that loss of sense of smell (anosmia) can be an early indicator of this disease. This announcement confirmed what British ear nose and throat physicians had recently reported.



As we mentioned yesterday to be careful of untested treatments: An Arizona man died and wife became critically ill after ingesting chloroquine phosphate, a fish tank cleaner (not the same formulation as the medicine used to treat malaria.) He and his wife had heard the media surrounding hydroxychloroquine's possible untested benefits in treatment of coronavirus and tried this to prevent getting COVID-19. She told the media "I had (it) in the house because I used to have koi fish ... I saw it sitting on the back shelf and thought, 'Hey, isn't that the stuff they're talking about on TV?'"

Please DON'T take fish tank cleaner!

What can you do?

Do the things we have been talking about:
"DO THE FIVE TO STAY ALIVE"

Also know that many good options are being explored and developed across our great communities to support and enhance our safety. Citizens are producing home sewn masks to be used during the current shortages. Members of our community including our youth are paring with school districts and others who own 3D printers and then, with the help, expertise, and plans provided by those in the medical industry they have begun to produce N95 compatible masks which should be available soon to help our first responders and others on the front lines of this response. By working together and staying within safety guidelines new solutions to pressing issues are being developed virtually every day.



DO THE FIVE STAY ALIVE

Help stop coronavirus

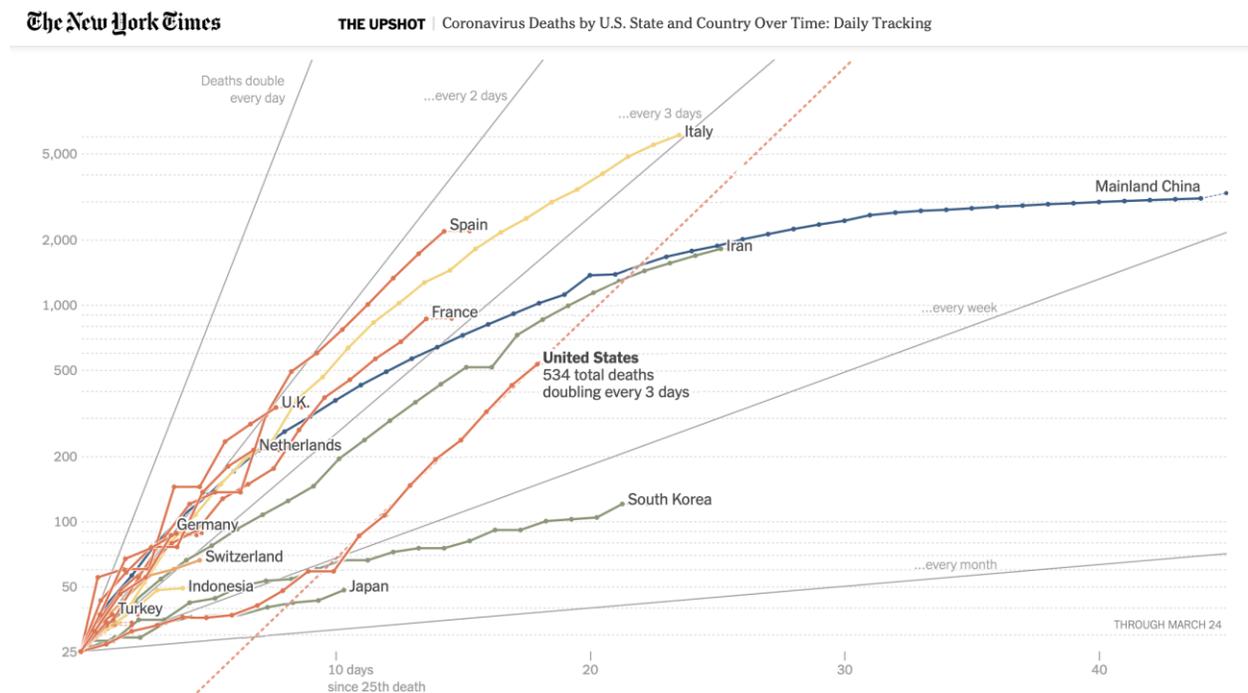
- 1 **HANDS** Wash them often
- 2 **ELBOW** Cough into it
- 3 **FACE** Don't touch it
- 4 **SPACE** Keep safe distance
- 5 **HOME** Stay if you can

Fear can cause people to take risks and make decisions they wouldn't normally consider. We encourage you to look for good solutions but carefully vet them. As President Trump said last night, "We don't want the cure to be worse than the disease."

Although I'm not a fan of rap, I think I like rapper Snoop Dogg's latest quote:

*"Your grandparents were called to war.
You're being called to sit on a couch.
You can do this."*

The New York Times reported today that the US death rate from COVID-19 is doubling every 3 days:



Stay Home. Stay Distant. Stay Safe!
Counter COVID with Clean Counters!

Respectfully,
David Weston, Fairbanks, MD, FAFP
Big Horn County Health Officer
Medical Commissioner, State Emergency Response Commission,
Wyoming Office of Homeland Security
Medical Director, Wyoming State Parks EMS
Chairman Wyoming EMS for Children
Medical Director, Shell Volunteer Fire Department & EMS
Medical Director, Big Horn County Search & Rescue
Medical Director, Antelope Butte Mountain Recreation Area & Ski Patrol



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. Park County Public Health Coronavirus Information Line: 754-1870 or 527-1870 (**Updated regularly**). **Big Horn County may use this.**
3. 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>.
4. CDC Website: <https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/community/index.html>