

September 29, 2020 "As cases creep, safe measures keep"

2:00 PM

Big Horn County

COVID-19 Update/Response

For Immediate Release

COVID-19 Update

Big Horn County

54 – laboratory-confirmed cases

44 – confirmed cases recovered

2 – COVID-19 related deaths

State of Wyoming

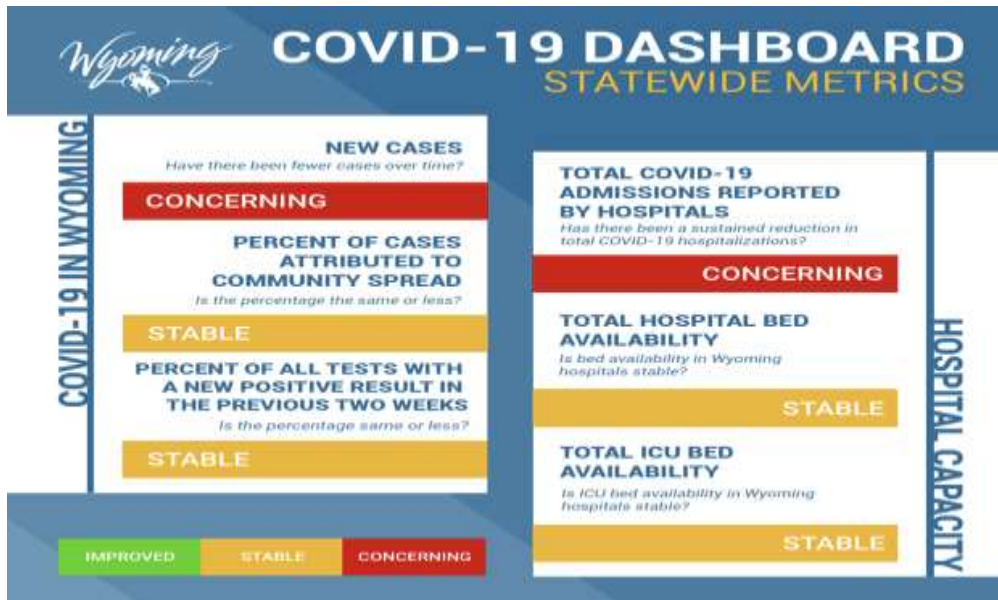
4,897 - laboratory-confirmed cases

857 - probably cases

50 - COVID-19 related deaths

1. We are learning more about this virus. It is now clear that perhaps 40-50% of COVID infections are asymptomatic. This makes it much more difficult to contact trace and control the spread of this disease.
2. Cases are continuing to steadily increase in Wyoming and Big Horn County.
3. Dr. Harrist has stated, "Nearly 100,000 people have been tested statewide with an overall 3% test positivity rate. In Big Horn County, 2,253 tests have been conducted, with a 1% positivity rate." Sadly, we have had 2 COVID related deaths in Big Horn County. Our hearts go out to these families.
4. Given these facts: Still the only way we have to combat this illness is with:
 - a. TIME – Reducing our time of exposure to those who may be infected.
 - b. DISTANCE – Maintaining social distancing at every opportunity.
 - c. SHIELDING – Wearing face coverings as much as possible, especially when social distancing cannot be maintained.
5. The State Epidemiological team is still continuing to contact trace and issue quarantine orders for those that are infected and their close contacts.
6. North Big Horn Hospital is working with us to provide testing to anyone that contacts Public Health with a verified concern. This support is greatly appreciated. We still encourage you to seek out your primary care provider if you have symptoms and need care.
7. We have updated State Public Health Orders given to us by the Governor and the State Health Officer that will go into effect on October 1, 2020. Thirteenth Continuation of Statewide Orders. Order #1 includes changes to provisions 2(a)-(c) specific to restaurants, bars, etc. The changes to these orders include:
 - a. 6-foot distancing no longer applies to booth seating in restaurants. Restaurants can seat back to back booths.
 - b. Tables can now seat 8 instead of 6
 - c. Groups attending events can now consist of 8 people instead of 6.
 - d. Previous orders were modified to allow indoor close contact sports with appropriate precautions. The State is working with the WHSAA who is developing guidance similar to what they had for football, volleyball, and cross country to make sure these activities can happen safely.
8. Many summer events were able to be held with variances that we put forward to the State. We appreciate all the hard work in planning and execution that everyone put forth. We need to keep up that effort.
9. School and County Judicial reopening plans have gone well. We thank everyone for their planning. Due to the extraordinary planning efforts and fastidious adherence to those plans, there have been zero contract tracing quarantine or isolation orders issued as a result of school sponsored activities.

10. We are now in the planning phase of COVID immunization and its implementation.
 - a. Limited doses may be available as early as November 1, with increasing supplies next year.
 - b. The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) will provide guidance on prioritization of initial distribution of vaccine.
 - c. Likely vaccine candidates will require completion of a two-dose series from the same vaccine brand.



Wyoming Department of Health Recommendations

- Follow public health orders.
- Wear [cloth face coverings](#) in public settings where physical distancing of at least 6 feet isn't practical.
- Stay home when sick and avoid other people unless you need medical attention.
- Older people and those with health conditions that mean they have a higher chance of getting seriously ill should avoid close-contact situations.
- Long-term care and healthcare facilities should follow guidelines for infection control and prevention.

“As cases creep, safe measures keep.”

Respectfully,
David Weston, Fairbanks, MD, FAAFP
Big Horn County Health Officer
Big Horn County Incident Management Team

