

PARK COUNTY COURTHOUSE  
1002 Sheridan Avenue  
Cody, WY 82414  
(307)527-8570



PARK COUNTY ANNEX  
109 W. 14th Street  
Powell, WY 82435  
(307)754-8870

March 18, 2020

RE: Park County Wyoming response to Novel Coronavirus 2019 (COVID-19)

## FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

**The first case of COVID-19 was confirmed in Park County, Wyoming yesterday evening. This individual is quarantined at home.**

COVID-19 is a novel (new) coronavirus that was discovered in Wuhan City, China in late December of 2019. COVID-19 quickly spread to many countries and Europe is now the epicenter of the outbreak. COVID-19 has been declared a global pandemic by the World Health Organization (WHO), and states of emergency have been declared by the President of the United States and the governor of Wyoming.

COVID-19 is likely to infect many in Wyoming. As of today, there are 15 confirmed cases in Wyoming. Of those infected, 80% have relatively mild respiratory illness and do not require hospital care while 20% become ill enough to require hospitalization. Death is possible, especially among the elderly.

There is currently no effective anti-viral medication and no vaccination. Social distancing is the only effective measure to combat the spread of COVID-19. Mitigation efforts can reduce the number of those infected and spread infection out over a longer period of time so that local healthcare resources are less likely to be overwhelmed.

Until a valid Public Health Order is in place, we are asking all county residents to **VOLUNTARILY** adhere to the following guidelines for 2 weeks (with re-evaluation at 10 days):

1. Public and private schools are currently closed and should stay closed until further notice.
2. All group childcare should to stop immediately as it is a high-risk activity.
3. Do not congregate in groups of more than 10 individuals. Exceptions to this include:
  - a. Governments
  - b. Grocery stores and other stores selling essential items
  - c. Pharmacies
  - d. Yellowstone Regional Airport
  - e. Cody Regional Hospital
  - f. Powell Valley Healthcare
  - g. Billings Clinic
4. Business involved in non-essential services should consider closing. Food establishments should limit their activities to drive-through, delivery, or pick-up at the curb.

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5. Entities providing essential food, vehicle fuel, electricity, natural gas, and communications should take steps to put their staff at low risk of infection and ensure uninterrupted delivery of these essential services. Business providing potentially urgent services should do so on an on-call basis

#### Individual Behaviors that should continue:

1. Stay at home when you are sick.
2. Wash hands frequently with soap and water for 20 seconds OR use alcohol-based hand sanitizer.
3. Cover mouth and nose when coughing or sneezing (do not use bare hand).
4. When experiencing respiratory symptoms, call healthcare provider before going to clinic or emergency department. Because there is no treatment for COVID-19, go to the ER only when symptoms worsen to the point that you are likely to need admission to the hospital for supportive care (e.g. respiratory difficulty).
5. Avoid crowds and sick individuals.
6. Avoid touching face with unwashed hands.
7. Do not hoard supplies unnecessarily.
8. Be aware of family, friends, and neighbors that need assistance. Maintain contact with them by phone. Prescriptions can be picked up, food can be delivered, and other assistance rendered with minimal contact.

#### Sources of Information on COVID-19

1. Park County Public Health Coronavirus Information Line: 754-1870 or 527-1870 (**Updated regularly**).
2. Park County Public Health Facebook Page: <https://www.facebook.com/pg/Park-County-Public-Health-398349463886296/posts/?ref=notif>. Up to date announcements from Wyoming Department of Health as they are released.
3. 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>.

**Reference:** Center for Disease Control, Implementation of Mitigation Strategies for Communities with Local COVID-19 Transmission. Available at <https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/downloads/community-mitigation-strategy.pdf>.

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Aaron R. Billin MD". The signature is fluid and cursive.

Aaron R. Billin, MD, MS, FAAFP, MFAWM  
Park County Health Officer

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Cc: Alexia Harrist, MD, PhD – Wyoming State Health Officer

All Park County Departments

Park County Sheriff's Office

Cody Police Department

Powell Police Department

Wyoming Highway Patrol

City of Cody

City of Powell

Town of Meeteetse

Powell Valley Healthcare

Cody Regional Hospital

Billings Clinic

Cody, Powell, and Meeteetse Chambers of Commerce

Park County School Districts 1 and 6

Northwest College

Media outlets