

BREAKING

First Campbell County COVID-19 case confirmed; Gordon orders 10-person limit on groups

By JONATHAN GALLARDO News Record Writer jgallardo@gillettenewsrecord.net Mar 20, 2020

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The main entrance to Campbell County Memorial Hospital is closed to visitors in addition to being the new site for COVID-19 screenings.

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CORONAVIRUS

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The first case of COVID-19 in Campbell County has been confirmed as an adult woman who has not been hospitalized.

Both Campbell County Public Health and the Wyoming Department of Health are reporting the Campbell County case of novel coronavirus Friday afternoon as the state's 20th overall.

The state is working closely with Public Health to monitor and assess the affected patient.

At this time, Public Health is unaware of anyone who has been hospitalized or any additional confirmed cases.

The WDH said the confirmation came through testing at the Wyoming Public Health Laboratory in Cheyenne.

"This is a new virus and new viruses need special attention," Public Health says on its coronavirus response website. "We don't yet know how easily COVID-19 spreads and how many people will experience severe illness. However, the symptoms reported with this disease are familiar to all of us: fever, cough and shortness of breath. Some of the steps that can help prevent the spread of such illnesses include avoiding contact with sick people, staying home when sick, covering nose and mouth when coughing or sneezing and washing hands often and carefully."

New order limits gatherings

CHEYENNE, Wyo. – Governor Mark Gordon

Shortly after the Campbell County COVID-19 case was confirmed, Gov. Mark Gordon's announced another statewide order prohibiting gatherings of 10 people or more in a single room or confined space.

State health officer Dr. Alexia Harrist signed the new order, which goes into effect immediately. The order supplements a statewide order issued Thursday that closed bars, restaurants, theaters, gymnasiums, some child care facilities and schools.

Both orders remain in effect through April 3.

“It is an absolute fact that social distancing slows the growth of coronavirus disease,” Gordon said in a Friday afternoon statement announcing the new order. “I very much appreciate the willingness of our state’s residents to comply with this action. Particularly, because it is now becoming clear that young adults 18-50 are also at risk of being hospitalized from COVID-19.”

The new order does not close additional businesses and the prohibition does not apply to gatherings at private residences, hotels and motels for lodging purposes. It also allows for government facilities and businesses, grocery stores and retail or business establishments that can provide adequate social distance spacing of 6 feet or more.

Health care facilities are also exempt, as are long-term care and assisted living facilities that are complying with Wyoming Department of Health and Centers for Disease Control directives.

“People of any age can spread this disease to others who are especially vulnerable to more serious or life-threatening illness,” Harrist said. “We’ve recommended limits on gatherings; this order is an official step to put those recommendations into action. Slowing and limiting the spread of disease is our goal.”

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Jonathan Gallardo

(1) COMMENT

bstetson Mar 20, 2020 7:55pm

What about the miners who are forced to go to work and sit in a start up with 50 plus sometimes over 100 people!! Yes they help bring energy but this should apply to everyone to stop this. Too many exemptions to make this go away. I worry the man who works to provide for our families is going to be put at risk. Surely they can shut it down for two weeks to stop this from spreading. Just my opinion. I don't want anything to happen to the man I spend my life with or my friends and their families. My job was cut short yesterday and I still care more about him than a paycheck.

Welcome to the discussion.

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