

PRESS RELEASE

For immediate use



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Second COVID-19 Case in Platte County, WY

[Wheatland, WY, 6/21/2020] Platte County Public Health has been informed by the State of Wyoming Department of Health that we have another case of COVID-19. We are still learning details from the Department of Epidemiology regarding this ongoing situation. Please know Platte County Public health, the Emergency Manager, and our County Health Officer are working to keep our community safe while we navigate through how this looks for the family involved and our community.

The follow up and contact tracing for this case is ongoing. As part of the process, people who have had close contact with a person who tests positive for COVID-19 will be identified and contacted by the Wyoming Department of Health and/or Platte County Public Health. This step is called contact tracing. Contract tracing is important because it helps to stop transmission of the virus in the community through early identification and prompt quarantine or isolation of potentially exposed individuals. Community members will be notified if it is determined you were a close contact with the diagnosed COVID-19 positive person. A confirmed positive case-patient requires isolation for 7-10 days after onset of symptoms (as long as symptoms are improving) AND 72 hours after fever subsides without medication.

A "Close Contact" is defined as a) being within approximately 6 feet of a confirmed positive case-patient for a prolonged period of time (generally 10 minutes or longer); close contact can occur while caring for, living with, visiting, or sharing a healthcare waiting area or room with a confirmed positive case-patient -or- b) having direct contact with infectious secretions of a COVID-19 case (e.g. being coughed on) if such contact occurs while not wearing recommended personal protective equipment (PPE) such as a face covering -or- c) anyone having stayed overnight for at least one night in a household, hotel, or other overnight accommodations with the case-patient during the period of exposure -or- d) anyone who had close contact with the confirmed positive case-patient during the period of exposure but do not meet the criteria for either household or HCP patients (e.g. large family or friend gathering where PPE such as a face covering was not worn and social distancing was not enforced). Once close contacts have been identified and contacted, they will be required to be in a 14-day quarantine as long as they remain asymptomatic.

A "Contact of a Contact" is defined as individuals who have had contact with an identified household, HCP, or community contact but have NOT had contact with a confirmed positive case-patient. A contact of a contact has not been exposed to a symptomatic COVID-19 case-patient and does not have any monitoring recommendations or movement restrictions.

Identifying information regarding this positive case will not be provided to the general public.

The Platte County Health Department wants to remind all Platte County residents:

- To stay home when sick and to avoid contact with others unless you need to seek medical attention. Individuals with a fever, cough, or influenza-like illness, regardless of travel history should call their healthcare provider for a phone evaluation. If you are having a true medical emergency, please call 911.
- Wear face masks or coverings to help protect others.
- Wash your hands often with soap and water for at least 20 seconds.
- Cover your coughs and sneezes.
- Clean and disinfect frequently touched surfaces such as doorknobs, light switches, countertops, faucets, sinks, phones, keypads, etc.
- Follow advice from the CDC on how to protect yourself:
<https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/prepare/prevention.html> .

To receive more information and updates on COVID-19 in Platte County, WY please go to <https://www.plattecountywyoming.com/>. More Wyoming information on COVID-19 can be found at <https://health.wyo.gov/publichealth/infectious-disease-epidemiology-unit/disease/novelcoronavirus/>.

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