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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

AFTON, Wyoming - Lincoln County Public Health and Lincoln County Office of Homeland Security & Emergency Management continue to monitor and coordinate with local healthcare providers in Lincoln County and resources from the State of Wyoming.

As we navigate our way through the COVID-19 pandemic that is currently happening both regionally and globally, it is important to remember that in order for us to get through this with as little negative impact as possible, we must work together and follow the health recommendations and orders being presented to us together as a community. We are all experiencing the same feelings of uncertainty and we all have the same end goal when it comes to our collective experience during this event. We want to maintain the good health of ourselves, families, friends and neighbors. We want to be able to support and sustain our local businesses and get back to living our daily lives as normally as possible. Right now, in order to achieve those goals, we must follow all of the recommendations being made to us by the people who are studying this virus daily. Resources and our Incident Response Team are and have been readied and several local agencies are coordinating daily to make sure plans and protocols are in place to prepare and respond to this pandemic. We all are learning more every day about this virus and the disease it causes, and the orders from the Governor, the President, and the Centers for Disease Control should not be taken lightly.

By now everyone has heard the term “social distancing” seemingly nonstop. The Centers for Disease Control have strongly recommended social distancing and maintaining distance from one another as a very effective way to slow the spread of the virus. The best way to fight this illness is to avoid being exposed to it. That fact is irrefutable. This virus is spreading fast and it’s spreading far. Currently there are still zero confirmed cases of COVID-19 in Lincoln County. The importance of heeding social distancing, disinfection, and personal hygiene recommendations to avoid contracting and spreading the virus are paramount right now. Places that have a higher count of cases across the country and including Wyoming are reporting rapidly dwindling medical supplies, resources and staff. They are reporting that this virus is seriously impacting people of all ages, not only our elderly and high risk populations. Young children and younger adults are not immune to the serious symptoms and after effects of this virus. An overwhelming of our medical capabilities could and likely would happen quickly in Lincoln County if we do not put in the effort right now to slow the spread. Our healthcare agencies are currently working long hours already to conduct testing and to educate the community. Our response coordinators are meeting with town leaders, school districts, hospitals, food suppliers and other agencies



regularly to make sure we are prepared to maintain the critical infrastructure needed to support this county. Our stores are regularly receiving routine deliveries of food and supplies. Now we need each other to pitch in and help and we can do that by heeding the orders on public gatherings, keeping to ten people or less when we do get together, maintaining six feet of distance from one another, seeking out reputable sources of information and not spreading baseless rumors and misinformation on social media, and staying home as much as possible right now, especially if you are ill. We need to stop hoarding resources and panic buying. We need to purchase only the supplies we need for a short period of time and make sure our friends, families and neighbors can get what they need too. We understand the impact of business closures but if we act now and maintain that distance for the recommended time frame, we can get back to business as usual much quicker. **DO NOT PANIC, BUT TAKE IT SERIOUSLY.**

Additional Resources

Centers for Disease Control (CDC) - <https://www.cdc.gov>

Wyoming State COVID19 Information - <https://covid19.wyo.gov>

Wyoming Department of Health - <https://health.wyo.gov/>

Lincoln County Public Health - https://www.lcwy.org/departments/public_health/

For additional information, contact:

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