

WASHAKIE COUNTY COMMISSIONERS

Courthouse
P.O. Box 260
WORLAND, WYOMING 82401
www.washakiecounty.net

FRED FRANDSON, Chairman
AARON ANDERSON, Member
TERRY WOLF, Member

Phone (307) 347-6491
Fax Phone (307) 347-9366

Open Letter to Washakie County Residents

In March 2020 at the start of the current Covid 19 pandemic, the Washakie County Commissioners established our emergency operations team headed by our Public Health Nurse and our Homeland Security Director. The team includes the Commission, both Mayors, the Sheriff, the County Health Officer, the Police Chief, the Fire Chief, both Ambulance Directors and additional support staff from public health and emergency management. This team represents a broad range of disciplines and spheres of influence and it has worked hard for months to make sure that our community has the resources it needs to deal with this pandemic. The decision on November 18th to go to a mask mandate effectively took the Commission and the team out of the decision-making process. The Washakie County Commissioners are evaluating our options in regard to reestablishing our management and influence back into decisions made for Washakie County and we will make a decision soon.

We are seeing a surge in cases nationwide, statewide, and at the local level. Many of our medical professionals are tired, frustrated, overworked, and scared that this surge will overrun available resources. They are the frontline against this pandemic, and they need our support. The Commission will continue to work to secure your personal freedoms, but we would remind everyone that with freedom comes responsibility. We are concerned that the angst against the mask mandate will make people resistant to doing what they need to do to protect themselves, their families, and our community from the spread of Covid 19. We know you are weary of dealing with this, but now is not the time to drop your guard, please join us in stepping up our efforts to protect our community.

- If you are sick get tested and isolate yourself even if you think it is just your "fall cold", head cold or sinus infection.
- Maintain a 6' Social Distance, if you cannot maintain social distance wear a mask or face covering.
- Wash your hands and use hand sanitizer. Don't touch your eyes, nose and mouth.
- Avoid large crowds in confined spaces.

There is no silver bullet to stop the spread of Covid 19, but these best practices can help to slow it. **We can all be proactive in our individual choices instead of waiting for someone to make a mandate. Ultimately, this matter is up to each and every county resident.** For more ideas on keeping yourself healthy please visit Washakie County's Covid 19 Facebook page. Thank you for your ongoing commitment to the health and safety of Washakie County.

Sincerely,

Fred W. Frandson, Chairman Terrence D. Wolf, Member Aaron Anderson, Member
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