

# TOWN OF WEST YELLOWSTONE

## PRESS RELEASE

May 8, 2020

The Town of West Yellowstone is preparing for the phased re-opening of Yellowstone National Park and the State of Montana. Over the past seven weeks, the Town has been collaborating with Hebgen Basin Fire District, Gallatin County Emergency Management, Community Health Partners, Yellowstone National Park, Bozeman Health, Gallatin County Health Department and the State of Montana to prepare for the inevitable effects COVID-19 will have on this community.

To date, two positive COVID-19 cases have been identified in the West Yellowstone area. We should take comfort in the fact that these cases do not appear to be from community spread, but from an isolated incident due to out-of-state travel. The Gallatin County Health Department is already actively conducting contact tracing to determine the extent of the exposure to the community. Currently, Community Health Partners, our local healthcare provider, has the capability to test high risk exposure and symptomatic patients.

As we move forward, we need to concentrate on reducing risk of spread in our area. This can be accomplished by **staying home when sick, social distancing, good hygiene, avoid touching hand and mouth, consider wearing a facemask, and regular cleaning and disinfecting procedures**. We need to pull together and get our economy going by doing our part as we navigate these uncertain times.

