

[THIS IS AN UNEDITED REALTIME TRANSCRIPT. I AM A NATIONALLY-CERTIFIED CLOSED CAPTIONER, BUT THIS IS NOT A CERTIFIED TRANSCRIPT, IT IS TO BE USED FOR INFORMATIONAL PURPOSES ONLY -- KATHY ROBSON]

>> LES: F.M. 99 the good morning, Les king with you. It is 7:45. We're going to be talking and welcoming you to the Carbon alert Covid-19 update. First off for this morning, we can introduce our panelists here this morning. As we have, good morning, Maggie Karas, good morning, Maggie, how's it going.
>> MAGGIE: Good morning, Les and everyone. Going pretty good. Another sunshine full day today, that's feeling good.
>> LES: Of course Maggie is from Carbon Alert incident management team. And Josh McQuillan, Carbon County Sheriff.
>> SHERIFF McQUILLAN: Good morning.
>> LES: For today the latest Covid-19 case data in Montana, give us that why don't you.
>> MAGGIE: I will, yeah, this is good news today. The data is current as of 10:00 yesterday morning. We've got 439 total confirmed cases in Montana. We are seeing a downward trend in new cases in the state, with only two newly confirmed cases yesterday. Overall, we have six total confirmed cases of Covid-19 in Carbon County. Three of those people have recovered leaving three active cases. And as governor Bullock reported yesterday, Montana has seen a total of 59 patients who had to be hospitalized. That's the lowest number of hospitalizations per capita in the U.S.

U.S. yesterday governor Bullock unveiled the reopening the big sky phased approach plan. Under the new plan that starts a gradual rollout on Sunday, we will still need to practice good hand washing, social distancing, staying home when sick, et cetera. But we'll begin the gradual reopening. It's detailed plan that I won't get into here but we do have a link to the reopening plan on Carbonalert.org. Now, let's get to questions for Carbon County Sheriff Josh McQuillan. Les you want to start it off?
>> LES: Sure, Josh. The Sheriff and deputies are responsible for keeping people of Carbon County area safe. What measures are you taking to ensure the safety of your officers during this Covid-19 outbreak?
>> SHERIFF McQUILLAN: Well, you know the law enforcement officers are in pretty tough position. We're working for the people to ensure their safety but we live here and want to keep our families safe, too. Believe some of the same challenges that other people do. Our kids are out of school, some of our spouses are working and some are not. We want to work to just continue to keep everyone safe. We've worked with the public Health Officer to ensure that we're meeting their guidelines for officers and the public safety. We're doing good with our supply of personal protective equipment now. We started out slow, as did every sector in the County but we made sure all of our deputies have masks and safety glasses in their cars as a precautionary measure.
>> SHERIFF McQUILLAN: And of course gloves are standard

everyday stuff.

>> LES: Maggie, take the next one.

>> MAGGIE: I have a question for you, Sheriff.

It's law enforcement's duty to enforce the governor's directive relative to Covid-19 in Carbon County R people following the stay at home business closures, essential travel directive?

>> LES: Yes, they are.

Carbon County residents, visitors and business owners have been very compliant with the governor's directive.

We have only had one violation that I'm aware of.

I want to commend the people of Carbon County for taking the directive seriously.

Our approach is to educate people on the directives.

You know then we ask them to supply for everyone's safety.

In order to move through the reopening process, we will need to be the vigilant and with social distancing, hand washing, and masking within six feet of social distancing when it can't be maintained.

>> LES: All righty.

Another question, there was a rumor that law enforcement was at the Wyoming border stopping out of state vehicles from coming in.

Any truth to that rumor, Josh?

>> SHERIFF McQUILLAN: No, we've heard that same concerns.

No, law enforcement officers can't stop anyone based solely on them having an out of state license plate on their vehicle. We haven't been stopping anybody at the border for that.

>> Okay, Maggie, go ahead.

>> MAGGIE: Okay, thanks, Les.

So I just wanted to throw in that we've got some changes coming in with this new reopening plan.

We get into that, if people see a violation of any of the governor's directive, Sheriff McQuillan, how can they report a violation?

>> SHERIFF McQUILLAN: I guess we would ask them to call the Carbon County dispatch center as they would with any other complaint or concern they had. And then we will you know work with Public Health or dispatch it to the appropriate law enforcement agency to look into it.

>> What are some of the most important steps some one can take with the warmer weather, hopefully, now here it is, hopefully here to stay during the Covid-19 outbreak, Josh?

>> SHERIFF McQUILLAN: You know, some of the things that we would ask them to do is continue to minimize the nonessential travel, continue to engage in the low risk outdoor activities such as walking, hiking, biking, running.

As long as you can comply with the social distancing guidelines and keep a distance of six feet from others.

People can still go to public works and open outdoor recreation areas including public lands provided those lands remain open to recreation. We discourage outdoor recreational activities such as rock climbing, paragliding. At this time Montana state parks fishing access and wildlife management areas are open to day use, no overnight use permitted. And while at the same time the social distancing guidelines will still apply to all of that.

>> All righty.

Maggie, I think that's all the questions I have.

You have anything else?

>> MAGGIE: No, I don't but I could just remind people to, let's celebrate the positives, we have had some good news. I am very proud of Montana and especially Carbon County for how well we've done in stopping the spread of this disease. But we have got to keep it up, we have to be vigilant. We can loosen the grip a little

bit but it's not going to be a free for all.

Let's stick with it, Carbon County.

We can do this, together we can get through it.

And then just reminder, that Carbon Alert has the Facebook live and instagram that will be streaming at 10:00 today.

And on that, you can hear commissioner Scott Blain talk about Carbon County's reopening plan, the group that he's gathered, and what they will be working on.

I hope everyone can tune in to that live on Facebook and instagram today at 10:00.

I'd like to thank Sheriff McQuillan for stopping in today.

I know you guys have had --

>> LES: A bit busy.

Last 24 hours.

>> MAGGIE: Yes.

>> SHERIFF McQUILLAN: It's been busy but everything worked out safely, we're thankful for that.

>> MAGGIE: We appreciate the front line workers so much, law enforcement, healthcare, grocery service, sanitation.

You guys are really going to bat for all of the rest of us.

So thank you.

>> Yes, we appreciate it.

Maggie appreciate you being here this morning.

I don't have anything else on my plate.

So I guess we'll get back to it here.

>> MAGGIE: Well, Les, do you have a good song that you could play that is kind of --

>> LES: Covid song?

We'll hit both aspects of it.

The police and "every breath you take."

How's that sound, with F.M. 99 the mountain.