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>> AMY: All right, good morning Carbon County, welcome to another Covid-19 incident briefing.

It's Thursday, May 28, 10:00A.M. Beautiful day outside.

I am here first off, I'm Amy Hyfield, the deputy public information officer for the Carbon County Covid-19 incident management team.

I am here with bill Bullock, who is a Carbon County commissioner and also member of the incident management team.

>> BILL: Thanks, good morning.

>> AMY: Good morning.

A few introductory notes.

I want to send a thank to you the restaurants, bar owners who are navigate everything we're going through, thank you to the service workers coming back to work and working really hard to keep everybody safe and well fed.

Have a little bit have sense of normalcy in this time.

Also want to give a shoutout to Roosevelt middle school eighth graders graduating today.

Noah, good job.

If you have any questions that you'd like to submit, please do so in the comments.

And we will try to address those during the event and if not we'll follow it up afterwards.

We are going to post this Facebook recording on our website as well as on our Facebook page, instagram page.

And a transcript from Kathy Robson will be available soon after, so thank you again Kathy, invaluable service, very much appreciate it.

A little bit of overview of the agenda, we'll talk about where we are and bill is going to talk

about summer events

>> BILL: It's summer.

>> AMY: It's supposed to be 80 degrees this weekend.

We'll talk about some monitoring that we're planning on doing within the Carbon County area and give you more information about that dashboard.

First off where are we?

Currently no active cases in Carbon County of Covid-19.

Which great job guys, keep it up.

We have two active hospitalizations in the state. For Covid-19 which is also great to see that number is down from last time.

The number of active cases in the state is low.

Currently, as of this morning, there were 20 active cases in the state.

We have been seeing some counties still having positive tests.

It's something that we do expect for the time being as we learn to live with this virus.

We are doing what seems to be a good amount of testing.

We're getting around one positive test per every 1,000 tests.

Which as Dr. George has explained in the past is indicating that we are doing enough testing to get a good sample rate of the people that are, in fact, sick.

So, that's good to know.

Where are we in the whole Phase, our reopening of the big sky?

We are still in Phase 1, and will be until June 1.

That's when Phase 2 starts.

All of those Phase 1 restrictions are still in place for this weekend.

That means groups of no larger than 10 where social distancing can be a little bit more relaxed within those groups.

We still encourage that social distancing.

You have 50% capacity at our restaurants and our bars, at

gyms.

And group classes are still not available at gyms.

We're still encouraging people that are vulnerable to shelter in place.

And our senior center, assisted living centers, are still closed to visitation.

And let's keep that in mind as we go through this, the rest of Russ opening up, there are still people that are vulnerable that are sheltering in place, that are trying to be healthy, that are trying to stay away from people that may be bringing the virus in.

Currently it's required that out of state travelers quarantine for now up to June 1, or the length much their stay.

If they're not here for work or essential business like that.

What is changing?

Phase 2, kind of a busy slide.

But really, not a whole lot.

Honestly, the capacity at our restaurants and at our bars and distilleries and breweries and casinos will go up to 75% in Phase 2.

Concert halls and other places of assembly will be able to open up.

But they're still going to have reduced capacity.

The group size will go up to 50 that we can have without social distancing.

And as of June 1, the out of state visitors will not have to self quarantine.

So that's going to be kinds of a big change for us as our state opens up a little bit more and we do start to see more people travel here as a summer destination.

Those are the things that are changing.

What isn't changing is that we need to keep up those good habits.

We need to keep up our hand washing, wiping down surfaces, sneezing, coughing into your arm, and wearing a mask in

public where it's either suggested by business owner or what not, social distancing is just difficult to maintain.

The outdoor recreation guidelines stay the same.

It's still definitely, we want you to stay home if you feel sick.

Please, if you have a cough, if you have a fever, don't go out. Have a rest day in your backyard or on your couch.

Then our workforce is still doing health checks.

Our businesses are doing health checks of their employees.

Those are the things that are changing in Phase 2.

And you can find more information about that

directive, there is a link at CarbonAlert.org to the Phase 1 as well as Phase 2 directives that the governor put out.

And we are expecting the state to put out Phase 2 frequently asked questions, which are very helpful for some of those a little bit more specific questions that people have and we will be putting those on our website as soon as they're available.

So Phase 2, June 1, the pass opens tomorrow all the way weather permitting.

That's our traditional entering into summer?

>> BILL: Kickoff to summer.

>> AMY: And I know within Phase 2 there's a lot of uncertainty. There's a lot of uncertainty going into the summer.

So can you speak to that, bill

>> BILL: I can, Amy, thank you.

I would like to start off thanking everybody not just businesses and everybody, our County population as a whole, I visited with a lot of folks, looked at several different boards, participated in a lot of conversations about events coming into summer.

And the sheer commitment of our board members, our community members, everybody that's

involved trying to get through this.
And the respect and decency that's followed through from that, I can't say enough positive things about. We're very fortunate. Fortunate to have the neighbors we have, fortunate to live where we do. We're in a special place. I can't congratulate you and I can't thank you enough for your commitment to do the right thing, thank you. It is summertime. Summer events. We have a lot of them. We know that the life blood of this community, this County whether it's Jim Bridger Days in Bridger, whether it's cruising Red Lodge, fourth of July rodeo, the motorcycle rally, any number of concerts, any number of events that happen all over the County all summer long that contribute to our ability to function. The incident management team, we have talked about this at length. We have taken a unique approach to all of these events, we haven't hard shutdown anything. The incident management team, board of public health, and everybody involved at this, with this situation at this level, we want summer events to happen. Our businesses count on these things to function. We haven't unilaterally shut down things of yet as other places have. We're trying to find a way to make it happen. Trying to make these things happen, those events have to be consistent with state and County directives and public has to be safe. Anyone planning an events, 4th of July rodeo, motorcycle rally or concerts, whatever the case may be, go to the CarbonAlert.org website and there is a guideline sheet.

It's not a permit. It is not a requirement. It's a guideline to see, you as the organizer and the event can come forward with a plan that's both safe and responsible to these restrictions, something that public health and incident management team can sign off on, that sounds like a good idea. The coverage and event to carry on. It's not a requirement. But we're trying to help everybody get through these things and make them happen. Some of those have come through already. Some have been looked at, refined a little bit, worked with the organizer and able to carry 0 one or two have come through where there's no good possible way to have social distancing in Phase 1 or Phase 2. It's too much of a chance in the view of the board of public health to have these things interacting. I will say that the fourth of July Home of Champions rodeo is being contemplated and right now and we're trying to find a way to make it happen. Events in the past couple of days, specifically Wyoming, Wyoming closed all of their major rodeos. Home of Champions is still on the table, we're still trying to find a way to make the home of champions rodeo and fourth of July function. We're also trying to find a way for Home of Champions rodeo parade to function. Now these things are going to look different should you decide to attend. We're trying to make it happen. I can't emphasize that enough. Commissioner plain and myself have been reaching out to the state, there are a lot of guidelines, a lot of gray area. We're trying to reach out and determine and get idea of when

economic relief will be coming. The C.A.R.E.S. act funding has been delivered to the state level.

We're trying to figure out when it can get trickled down to the County level and we'll keep pursuing that.

Same with the other events like the Home of Champions rodeo. Seeing how that carries forward and what we can do to make it happen.

There will be more to follow, we will have intense discussions in the next few days.

So we're trying.

And, again, your patience is commendable, I think our County as a whole deserves a lot of credit for how they have approached the situation. Trying to weed through it and make sure the best things happen.

Amy, am I missing anything?

I'm trying to think where else have we been

>> AMY: That covers a lot of it.

I just wanted to as you said, encourage people to go to the website at CarbonAlert.org.

I'm going to show people, hopefully, that -- how you get there.

This is the CarbonAlert.org website.

Go to incident, Covid-19, and we have the incident map.

But if you keep scrolling down, here's some information.

So you can look as I mention, the Phase 1 plan information, the Phase 2 plan information, and then right down here is where people can submit an event plan review form.

That will allow you to, as you mention, put this into the incident management team, your plan for how to run these events during Phase 2 as we're coming into Phase 2.

So that we can help with guidance.

So that's the goal there.

So let me see if I can get back to our slides here.

So, yeah, please encourage people to go there and see CarbonAlert.org, for information as well

>> BILL: One last comment with that, as these events come forward in the planning stages we're trying to identify each of the larger events coming forward.

We will be reaching out to every individual coming into it, trying to make it into chronological order and bring them to the table to have the conversation as things happen.

I previously mentioned we'll start with the Home of Champions rodeo tomorrow.

Next week it'll probably be the motorcycle rally in Red Lodge as well as Jim Bridger Days.

But there will be more to follow.

We'll get the right people to the table, those municipalities affected and have that conversation and trying to affect some of these things that need to happen, need to happen for the economy, they need to happen for our own personal well being, insofar as getting our minds off of some of the things that have been happening, and carry forward.

There will be more to follow.

>> BILL: Thanks.

>> AMY: While we are concerned about our economy, concerned about the mental health and everything, we're also concerned about public health for sure. It's a difficult thing to balance.

I appreciate your consideration, the incident management team. And definitely Dr. George's consideration.

He's been very thoughtful as the County public health officer how do we weigh these things out, how do we make sure people can remain safe.

I wanted to talk about plans that we have in place, or are developing right now.

But before I do that, I wanted to state if there any questions submit them.

I do recognize there's a little bit of a delay when we're actually talking in real life and when it goes out on Facebook.

That happens before because of the delay.

We'll try to account for.

That I wanted to talk about the Carbon County Covid-19 dashboard.

This is something that we're in the planning stages of, hope to have it out soon.

Our goal within the Carbon County incident management team is to be able to act locally with a targeted response.

In the past we've seen like the entire state closed down, or all restaurants and bars closed down.

We've now we're open.

And there is still the chance that if we see outbreaks of Covid-19, and the coronavirus within our County that we may have to scale back.

And we do expect some of those cases to happen.

We are learning to live with this virus right now, we are learning to live with the controlling it in a way that it protects our vulnerable populations, not that we -- we cannot have outbreaks in any area where a lot of people are infected or possibly infected. So that we can keep these events happening but also keep the public safe.

We also want to do that as I mentioned in a targeted way.

If we are noticing that we're getting outbreaks in restaurants that we can deal with that specifically and not have to shut everything down across the board.

And we want to look at it within Carbon County and make decisions at that County level and maybe at a community level within our County.

And so to do that we are coming up with indicators, things that we look at number the number of cases, percentage of tests that are coming back positive, some other indicators around our healthcare system, our community support.

And be able to sort of monitor how we're doing in Carbon County living with this virus.

As we go through forward with summer, as we have some events happen, as we have more people come to our County from outside of our state and outside of our country where we in Montana have done really great.

We have 9 lowest number of cases, active cases tied with I think Alaska right now, in the nation.

But there are some places that have more cases.

Those people are traveling.

As we mix more, there's more of a chance.

I want to stress that that's not necessarily a bad thing.

It's learning to live with this virus right now, until we have a vaccine.

Utmost in mind is public health for sure but we are balancing that with a lot of other things. As everyone is every day.

And it is up to our own personal responsibility to make those choices about when we interact, and is absolutely our personal responsibility to wash our hands, to be respectful of others, and to stay home when we're sick.

All of those good habits that we learned, let's keep it going. That's how we're going to learn to live with the virus.

For this dashboard, we're developing this plan, and our goal is to have on our website coming up soon, we'll let people know, a snapshot, similar to the map that we've seen for the state but something that's Carbon County specific.

So others within the County, the state, can look at what we're

looking at to try and evaluate the health of our County as a whole.
Both within carbon 19 cases but also how is our community doing.
>> BILL: Right.
>> AMY: So that will be coming up, that will be on the CarbonAlert.org web page soon and we'll let people know when we have it rolling.
Asano, are there any questions or bill you want to add anything?
>> BILL: We'll defer to any questions at this time.
>> ASANO: We have one so far. The question is has a decision been made about the classic car weekend usually held the last weekend in June.
>> BILL: No, there's not, that's in parts too.
It hasn't been brought forward, followed through at least on the document for guidance as to how it can control out.
If you guys are out there, if it's Ricky or whoever, go to the web page and look at that guidance sheet and fill it out and go forward.
That event was listed on our list of events to consider and trying to figure out how to make happen.
It's a little bit later on, so we have a bit of time yet.
But as soon as we can get a few of these other things out of the way going into July, that's usually later in July, first week of August, we'll get that addressed and carry forward.
As of right now no, but we know it's out there.
>> AMY: We know that a lot of these events, they have their own considerations.
In addition to whether it can be in line with directives, whether it's in line with the public health which is where the incident management team is.
These events have to make sure that they can do all of these things.
And make it financially viable.

We understand each event is different, every event is unique, they have their own things to weigh out.
There are some people that have made decisions already on events either to cancel them, and then there are ones that are working with us to try and figure out, come up with the creative solutions.
It's going to look different going forward.
And in some cases it may not be possible underneath at least Phase 2.
In Phase 3 we come into different considerations
>> BILL: Definitely.
>> AMY: But we don't know when that will be.
That uncertainty is unsettling. Unsettling for everybody.
My mom always said, life is what happens when you're busy making plans.
Hopefully, hopefully life doesn't happen too much, though.
>> BILL: Honestly, talking about all of these things, no easy answers to any of this.
Nothing is decided without an unbelievable amount of conversation or discussion.
There's consequences to this.
This takes time.
There's no clear set of rules or road map going into this or finding our way out of this.
The viewing public, everyone that's listening, we're trying not to forget anything but trying to make the right decision for our constituents, our neighbors, families, everybody that lives here.
Summer is our big season.
The whole world comes to recreate in the summer.
We've been fortunate in the past but it could be a curse coming into this year.
I don't want it to be a curse.
Nobody does.
You want to have the summer come off without a hitch, enjoyable time, you want businesses continue to thrive and get

through this to the other side. All I can ask is everybody try to hang in as much as you can. Come to us with questions, call the commissioner's office, commissioner Blain or my cell phone, Tom Kohley, Amy Hyfield, Dr. George, anybody on the public health board.

Ask early, ask often, and we'll get through this better.

>> ASANO: Rod Bastian is one of the organizers for the classic car weekend.

He stated that the car show is the ends of July and we I will have time

>> BILL: Okay, okay.

>> AMY: If you out there couldn't hear, rod BASTIAN, one of the organizers, said the car show is end of July and they have not yet made a decision.

So there you go

>> BILL: Rod, if you are there, I encourage you, stop in and have a conversation, we can start bringing that up, at least begin that conversation trying to get a resolve to the issue.

>> AMY: Anything else with questions?

We'll give it just a minute for the delay.

You have any big plans for the weekend, bill?

>> BILL: Peace and quiet, hopefully.

We'll see what happens.

Supposed to be a nice weekend. Wouldn't be a terrible weekend to try and go golf

>> AMY: 80 degrees do.

Your social distance golfing

>> BILL: Exactly.

How about you, rafting or anything?

>> AMY: I think that's the hope, rafting or biking.

It's pretty easy to get away from people when you're out on the water or out on the trail

>> BILL: That's a good weekend.

>> AMY: It's a great weekend, yes.

Looks like we don't have any more questions.

If you think of something else,

feel free to submit those via Facebook, Instagram.

Other ways that you can contact us, that are on the website at carbonalert.org.

E-mail, phone, or as bill said give him a call.

We really appreciate you watching.

We are still continuing with the every other week for Facebook live and instagram live.

Unless something comes up that we need to address before that. And we look forward to seeing you then.

Look forward to seeing you out in the community.

Be safe, have fun, and be kind to one another.

>> BILL: Thank you everybody.