

Eagle Butte Lockdown Reduces COVID-19 Cases

By The CRST Public Health Task Force

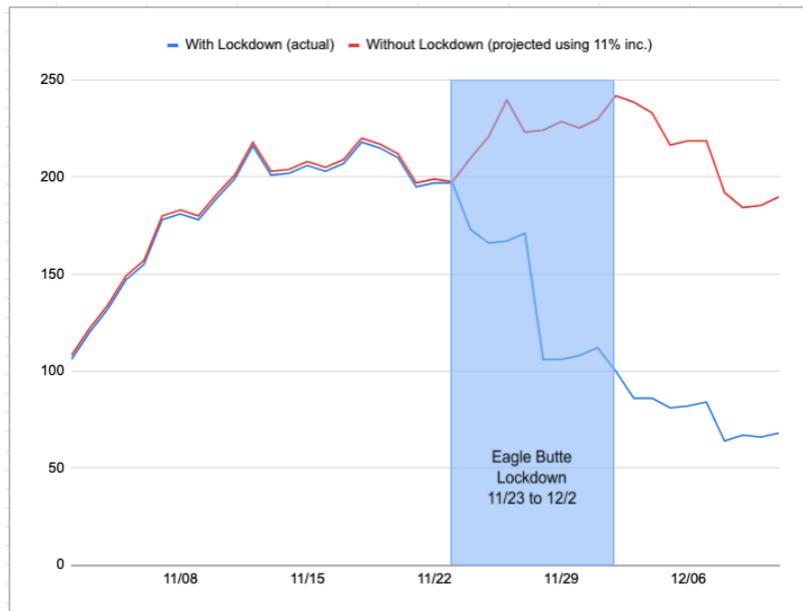
The CRST Public Health Task Force was formed early on in the pandemic to advise tribal leaders on public health strategies to reduce the threat of COVID-19. The Task Force consists of 3 members with 47 years of public health experience collectively. The members are Randolph Runs After, Peg Bad Warrior, and Rae O’Leary. The Task Force members meet regularly to review trends in data, discuss new research or changing guidance, and they meet with tribal leaders upon request.

This article is the first of a series of articles from the Public Health Task Force to highlight current Tribal guidance, and review other educational topics upon request from tribal leaders. We’ll kick off this series with an overview of CRST COVID-19 data pre- and post-lockdown and recommendations on how to stay safe.

On November 13th, CRST Tribal Council held a special session to discuss the potential of a lockdown and the following Monday, November 16th the Chairman’s Executive team began preparation for a 10-day lockdown for the community of Eagle Butte. On this day, the city’s active cases had *increased* by 92% compared to 14 days earlier. A week later on November 23rd when the lockdown began, the active cases in Eagle Butte had *increased* 11% compared to 14 days earlier. This means the active cases were still growing but the growth had started to slow.

The lockdown was called “Tiyata Owanzila Unpo” by the Cheyenne River Sioux Tribe, which translates to “United Staying at Home” in Lakota. The purpose of the temporary home confinement, or “Tiyata Owanzila” is to help stop the spread of coronavirus by infected persons. A copy of the Tribe’s official policy and procedures can be found at <https://www.crstcoronavirusupdates.com/tiyata-owanzila/>. The policy boldly declares that “Life is more valuable and irreplaceable than money.”

On December 2nd, the final day of the 10-day lockdown, the active cases in Eagle Butte had *decreased* 54% compared to 14 days earlier. Because of the nature of COVID-19, the



impact of the lockdown is expected to be delayed. Today’s behaviors and exposures will not be reflected in the data for 5 or more days. This is because of the incubation period, which is the time between a person’s exposure and when they feel ill. This period typically lasts 5 days, but can last up to 14 days. A study on the impact of lockdowns estimates that the greatest impact in cases happens 14 to 18 days after a lockdown begins (Vinceti, 2020). Eagle Butte had 64 active cases on December 8th, which was the lowest point and occurred 16 days after the lockdown began.

Using the +11% change on the day the lockdown began, we can make predictions about what active cases may have done without a lockdown.

Date	Active Cases in Eagle Butte	% Change from 14 days ago
11/13	201	+126%
11/14	202	+108%
11/15	206	+104%
11/16	203	+92%
11/17	207	+73%
11/18	218	+65%
11/19	215	+46%
11/20	210	+35%
11/21	195	+10%
11/22	197	+9%
11/23	197	+11%
11/24	173	-8%
11/25	166	-17%
11/26	167	-23%
11/27	171	-15%
11/28	106	-48%
11/29	106	-49%
11/30	108	-47%
12/1	112	-46%
12/2	100	-54%
12/3	86	-60%
12/4	86	-59%
12/5	81	-58%
12/6	82	-58%
12/7	84	-57%
12/8	64	-63%
12/9	67	-60%
12/10	66	-60%

There were 64 active cases on the day with the fewest cases in Eagle Butte, compared to 185 in this projection. That's a difference of 101 active cases.

The data is clear. The 10-day lockdown in Eagle Butte made a big impact on transmission of Coronavirus. What the data cannot show is the tremendous effort and resources the Tribe put into this lockdown, and the turmoil and hardship it may have caused some residents of Eagle Butte.

While the lockdown was successful in slowing the spread of Coronavirus, to avoid future lockdowns, all citizens need to strictly adhere to level 5 guidance of the CRST COVID-19 Response Plan.

1. **Stay home.** Don't leave unless it is absolutely necessary.
2. **Wear a mask** every time you leave your home.
3. Keep **6 feet** between yourself and others.
4. Avoid locations that are **high-risk** for transmission *if possible*. This includes daycares, schools, office buildings, churches, restaurants, businesses not following safety precautions, or any indoor space with more than 10 people.

Individuals who are sick, have COVID-19, or have been exposed to COVID-19 must take an *extra* layer of precautions.

1. **If you are sick**, stay home, avoid contact with others in your home, and call the CRST Medical Hotline at 964-0563 to arrange for testing.
2. **If you have COVID-19**, follow isolation recommendations, this includes eliminating all contact with others in your home. If that's not possible, wear a mask even in your home. It's *very* important to be honest with contact tracers when they call.
3. **If you have been exposed** to someone with COVID-19, stay home, avoid close contact with others in your home, and call the Medical Hotline to make sure they know you were a close contact.

If we all work to protect each other by following the Tribe's guidance, we can overcome the threat of Coronavirus! Stay tuned for more tips on how to protect yourself and others from the Public Health Task Force in the weeks to come. Questions can be directed to Peg Bad Warrior at 200-0670.

Reference: Vinceti, M. et al. 2020. Available at: [https://www.thelancet.com/journals/eclinm/article/PIIS2589-5370\(20\)30201-7/fulltext](https://www.thelancet.com/journals/eclinm/article/PIIS2589-5370(20)30201-7/fulltext).