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Humboldt County Health Board

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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HUMBOLDT COUNTY HAS 50 COVID-19 CASES; HEALTH OFFICER INTRODUCES "FAST TEAM"

WINNEMUCCA, Nev.— Humboldt County has been notified of one more positive case of coronavirus disease 2019 (COVID-19), bringing the county's total to 50.

Forty-eight of the cases were identified through Humboldt General Hospital, while two were confirmed out of state.

Based on available information, close contacts of the newest case are being identified or have been notified and are following self-isolation procedures to prevent community spread of the virus.

Brief summary information follows:

- Case 50 – A man in his 20s, who is a close contact of a previously reported case. He is self-isolating at home.

Of the 49 previously reported cases, 10 have recovered, two are hospitalized, 34 are self-isolating at home, and three have passed away. Humboldt County currently has 37 active cases.

Humboldt County Health Officer Charles Stringham, MD, has assembled the "Fast Team," a local group of professionals with experience in law enforcement, emergency response dispatch and community paramedicine, to streamline the process of receiving COVID-19 case data and quickly getting people into isolation.

"During the first weeks of our campaign against this virus, we frequently found that by the time we learned of positive test results, those patients had already infected many other people," said Dr. Stringham. "We came to realize that the process of receiving test results and making contact with infected patients needed to be hastened."

The team makes daily contact with those in isolation to ask about symptoms, status, compliance, and other related issues; the team also investigates cases where the origin of contact is unknown.

"This team's job is to help diminish our overall public health threat," said Dr. Stringham. "Of course we all play a role in reducing the overall threat by maintaining an appropriate distance from others, and wearing a mask in public."

Additionally, local residents have begun receiving cell phone PSA announcements through the Humboldt County Sheriff's Office "Alert Sense" system. The phone/text system is initially asking residents to stay home if they are sick and to wear a mask while in public. Dr. Stringham said other messages will be tailored to the community based on information gleaned through the Fast Team's efforts.

Local residents who need a mask may message Dr. Stringham on the Stop Coronavirus in Humboldt County Now Facebook page @stophumboldtcoronavirus. Masks also are available by messaging @MuccaMaskMakers on Facebook.

To join the fight against COVID-19, please:

- Stay home to limit exposure, and wear a mask if going out in public is necessary.
- Maintain 6 feet of distance from other people at all times.
- Wash hands often with soap and water for at least 20 seconds. If soap and water are not available, use an alcohol-based hand sanitizer.
- Avoid touching eyes, nose, and mouth.
- Cover coughs and sneezes with a tissue, then throw the tissue in the trash.
- Clean and disinfect frequently touched objects and surfaces.
- Stay informed. The COVID-19 situation is changing frequently. Up-to-date information is available on the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) website at www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/index.html.

As of Monday, May 4, screening for respiratory illness or COVID-19 symptoms will be provided at Humboldt General Hospital's Suite C Clinic, which may be accessed from the ramp entrance on Mizpah Street. Residents should call (775) 623-5222, ext. 1379, to alert staff and then stay in their vehicle until notified to enter. The screening clinic is open from 8 a.m. to 5 p.m. daily, and closed for lunch from noon to 1 p.m.

Anyone who is experiencing severe respiratory distress should proceed immediately to the HGH Emergency Department. For complete guidance, please visit www.hghospital.org.

Local COVID-19 information is available in Spanish @CovidEspanol. Humboldt County COVID-19 updates and information are available in English at @HumboldtCountyNV and @StopHumboldtCoronavirus.

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