

Chair & County Health Officer,

Dr. Charles Stringham

Board Members,

Ken Tipton, County Commission Chair

Marlene Brissenden, County Commissioner

Jim French, County Commissioner

Ron Cerri, County Commissioner

Mike Bell, County Commissioner

Mike Allen, Humboldt County Sheriff

Humboldt County Health Board

Humboldt County Courthouse
50 West Fifth Street Room 205
Winnemucca, Nevada 89445



May 11, 2020

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Contact: Nicole Maher, PIO
Humboldt County Health Board
Phone: (775) 761-2624
Email: nicole@winnemucca.net

DRIVE-THRU COVID-19 COMMUNITY SCREENING BEGINS THURSDAY FOR ALL RESIDENTS

WINNEMUCCA, Nev—Beginning Thursday, May 14, community-based COVID-19 testing will be available to all Humboldt County residents at the indoor Winnemucca Event Center.

The Humboldt County Sheriff's Office, Emergency Management Division, announced the four-day drive-thru POD in conjunction with the Nevada Department of Emergency Management.

Humboldt County will receive 2,000 testing kits; residents will be tested on a first-come, first-served basis, although healthcare workers and first responders will have first priority.

A second, small-scale POD will be held later this month in Orovada for Humboldt County residents who live in the communities north of Winnemucca, including Orovada, McDermitt, Paradise Valley, Denio and Kings River.

According to Humboldt County Emergency Manager Captain Sean Wilkin, the community POD will not involve antibody or rapid test kit testing; it is state lab-based COVID-19 testing. There is no cost to participants and residents will be notified of positive or negative results after 72 hours.

"This community screening is a combined effort between federal, state and county resources to do a largescale identification of COVID-19 in Humboldt County for data purposes that will help us more effectively fight this virus," said Captain Wilkin.

Humboldt County Community Health Nurse Marsha Foreman said a further goal of the POD is to identify weak spots within the community and fill the gaps.

"What are we missing?" she asked. "What part of the picture are we not seeing? Those are the kinds of things that we will be looking for when we see our overall results."

The screening POD is planned as follows:

- **Thursday, May 14:** 12 p.m. to 2 p.m. – healthcare, law enforcement, fire and first responders only; 2 p.m. to 10 p.m. - mine, swing shift and nightshift workers.

- **Friday, May 15:** 9 a.m. to 10 a.m. - healthcare, law enforcement, fire and first responders only; 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. - general public.
- **Saturday, May 16:** 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. - general public.
- **Monday, May 18:** 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. - general public.

Humboldt County Health Officer Charles Stringham, MD, said the screening POD is specifically designated for the following groups:

- Essential workers, including healthcare workers, first responders, public works, and convenience/grocery store employees;
- Persons who are in a high-risk category;
- Employees and residents of congregate settings;
- Persons who have traveled to an area that is experiencing an outbreak of COVID-19.
- Members of the general public of all ages.

“This list is not all inclusive,” said Dr. Stringham, “but we are hopeful to get a solid cross-section of Humboldt County residents to take part in this community screening.”

Captain Wilkin said the National Guard will be sending 10 medical staff, 30 support staff and one Haz-Mat driver to transport tests back to the state lab.

“The Guard is sending all staff to facilitate this event so we won’t have to tap our healthcare workers,” he said. “This event is meant to support them in their efforts to care for the community.”

Residents are reminded to arrive with a face covering, and to remain in their vehicle at all times.

Residents will be notified of positive or negative results after 72 hours; they should not attempt to call for results. There is no cost for the screening.

The screening POD is made possible through the joint efforts of the Humboldt County Health Board, Humboldt County Emergency Management, State of Nevada Division of Public and Behavioral Health/Community Health Nursing, the US National Guard, Humboldt County Commission, Humboldt County Sheriff’s Office, Winnemucca Police Department and the Humboldt County Health Officer.

Those who are symptomatic or who have had contact with a positive COVID-19 case should alert their first contact at the POD.

However, residents with COVID-19 symptoms should not delay screening until the community-based POD. Humboldt General Hospital’s screening clinic is open daily from 8 a.m. to 5 p.m. in Clinic Suite C, which may be accessed from the ramp entrance on Mizpah Street.

For questions, please call the Office of the Humboldt County Community Health Nurse at (775) 623-6575 or message @humboldtcountynv on Facebook.

###