

Humboldt County Health Board



October 9, 2020

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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

HUMBOLDT COUNTY REPORTS 141 TOTAL CONFIRMATIONS, 12 ACTIVE CASES

WINNEMUCCA, Nev.— Humboldt County has been notified of five more positive cases of coronavirus disease 2019 (COVID-19), raising the county's total to 141.

Overall, 115 of Humboldt County's cases were identified through Humboldt General Hospital, one was identified through community-based screening, seven were identified through the Golden Valley Medical Center, six were identified through testing at the Ridley's Pharmacy, and 12 were confirmed out of area.

In addition, the Office of the Humboldt County Community Health Nurse has completed 58 tests, with 57 negative and one result pending. Any positives through the Community Health Nurse are reported as part of Humboldt County's total number of cases.

The Fort McDermitt Paiute Shoshone Tribe reports 95 total cases; 78 were confirmed through the Fort McDermitt Wellness Center, eight were tested out of area, while eight were tested through the National Guard community-based testing on July 26. In all, Fort McDermitt has completed 845 tests, 90 people have recovered, one person has died, and the tribe has five active cases.

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

Brief summary information of Humboldt County's latest case follows:

- Case 141 – A man in his 30s, who is a close contact of a previously reported case. He is self-isolating at home.
- Case 140 – A woman in her 50s, whose case remains under investigation. She is self-isolating at home.
- Case 139 – A male teen, who is a close contact of a previously reported case. He is self-isolating at home.
- Case 138 – A male child, who is a close contact of a previously reported case. He is self-isolating at home.
- Case 137 – A man in his 20s, who is a close contact of a previously reported case. He is self-isolating

at home.

Of the previous 136 cases, 125 have recovered, seven are self-isolating and four have died; Humboldt County has 12 active cases.

Humboldt County Health Officer Charles Stringham, MD, said people may not have seen or heard the term “contact tracing” before it began popping up in news reports about COVID-19, but contract tracing is not new.

“Contact tracing is a proven public health tool for slowing the spread of communicable diseases,” said Dr. Stringham. “Among other diseases, it’s been used for tuberculosis, measles outbreaks, sexually transmitted infections and more.”

Now, said Dr. Stringham, it’s been activated by health departments across the country to help break the chain of COVID-19 being passed from infected individuals to others—but it relies on each individual’s honesty to truly work.

“With contact tracing, you’re potentially preventing infection from spreading at a much earlier point of the disease, and identifying people who may be at risk of becoming infected before they start developing symptoms,” said Dr. Stringham.

However, if those infected by the virus are not completely forthcoming about where they have been or with whom they’ve had contact, then contact tracing loses its effectiveness.

“It’s imperative that everyone be completely honest,” said Dr. Stringham. “As we continue to reopen the economy and increase gathering sizes, contract tracing provides a critical layer of safety in our community: it allows us to create a break in the chain of the disease and reduce the number of people who are going to be exposed before symptoms develop.”

Dr. Stringham urged local residents to respond quickly to Humboldt County’s Fast Team if they have been confirmed for the virus, or if they may have had a close exposure.

“The sooner our contract tracers can get the right information, the sooner they can break that chain and limit the amount of people who may be affected,” he added.

To prevent the spread of COVID-19 in Humboldt County:

- Stay home to limit exposure, and wear a facial covering 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 visiting sick people or those who are self-isolating.
- Avoid touching eyes, nose, and mouth.
- Cover coughs and sneezes with a tissue, and throw the tissue in the trash.
- Clean and disinfect frequently touched objects and surfaces.
- Self-isolate if they have had a known exposure, or if they are awaiting COVID-19 test results.

- 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](#).

The Humboldt General Hospital Screening Clinic has moved to the HGH West Campus, located at 51 E. Haskell Street. From 8 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. Monday through Friday, the clinic offers drive-thru screening for asymptomatic and symptomatic persons with a doctor's order only. Those who are experiencing severe COVID-like symptoms should go directly to the HGH Emergency Department.

The Office of the Humboldt County Community Health Nurse also is offering testing to asymptomatic persons with no known exposure. For more information or to make an appointment, residents may call the clinic at (775) 623-6575.

Free cloth masks are available to community members at the Olsen's and Ridley's pharmacies, courtesy of the Mucca Mask Makers, or by messaging the group on Facebook @Mucca Mask Makers.

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

###