

Chair & County Health Officer,

Dr. Charles Stringham

Board Members,

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Jim French, County Commissioner

Ron Cerri, County Commissioner

Mike Bell, County Commissioner

Mike Allen, Humboldt County Sheriff

Humboldt County Health Board

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October 10, 2020

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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HUMBOLDT COUNTY REPORTS 143 TOTAL CONFIRMATIONS, 14 ACTIVE CASES

WINNEMUCCA, Nev.— Humboldt County has been notified of two more positive cases of coronavirus disease 2019 (COVID-19), raising the county's total to 143.

Overall, 116 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, seven 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 880 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 143 – A woman in her 50s, who is a close contact of a previously reported case. She is self-isolating at home.
- Case 142 – A woman in her 30s, whose case remains under investigation. She is self-isolating at home.

Of the previous 141 cases, 125 have recovered, 12 are self-isolating and four have died; Humboldt County has 14 active cases.

Monday, October 5, the COVID-19 Mitigation and Management Task Force flagged Humboldt County for elevated disease transmission risk.

Humboldt failed the state's first criterion due to a low average number of tests per day; the county has been averaging 74.5 tests per day while the state has required 200.

Humboldt County also failed the second criterion for its high test positivity rate of 8.4%—a jump from 3.6% the week before.

Humboldt County Health Officer Charles Stringham, MD, said with an additional 11 cases since that October 5 designation, Humboldt County will continue to be singled out for elevated risk.

“What we are seeing is a serious uptick in cases that we are hoping does not turn into a long-term trend,” said Dr. Stringham.

Dr. Stringham said Humboldt County will provide the state's COVID-19 Task Force with a plan this coming week to help mitigate any possible trends.

“But there won't be anything new or surprising in that plan,” said Dr. Stringham. “We will still be asking local residents to wear masks, to distance socially and to wash their hands frequently.”

“Those are the things that helped us control this virus's spread when we began this journey, and it's what will help us now.”

Still, the doctor said it's going to take community residents' investment in that plan.

“If we don't unite as a community in doing these three simple things, then we will see an upward trend that will result in all the things we don't want,” said Dr. Stringham, “so I am asking that everyone get invested in the plan.”

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.

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