

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
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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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HUMBOLDT COUNTY REPORTS 154 TOTAL CONFIRMATIONS, 23 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 154.

Overall, 124 of Humboldt County's cases were identified through Humboldt General Hospital, one was identified through community-based screening, eight were identified through the Golden Valley Medical Center, nine 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 107 total cases; 90 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 1,064 tests, 95 people have recovered, one person has died, and the tribe has 11 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 cases follows:

- Case 154 – A man in his 30s, whose case remains under investigation. He is self-isolating at home.
- Case 153 – A man in his 20s, who is a close contact of a previously reported case. He is self-isolating at home.

Of the previous 152 cases, 127 have recovered, 18 are self-isolating, three are hospitalized, and four have died; Humboldt County has 23 active cases.

Humboldt County Health Officer Charles Stringham, MD, told Health Board members at their October 15 meeting that Humboldt County is experiencing a significant uptick in COVID-19 cases.

Dr. Stringham said about four weeks ago, Humboldt was seeing an average of one case every other day. Three weeks ago, that became one case per day. For the last several weeks, Humboldt has been averaging about two cases per day.

Fort McDermitt also has confirmed 15 new cases since the beginning of the month, or an average of about one new case each day.

“We are seven months into the pandemic, and most of us are well-versed in how to prevent this virus,” said Dr. Stringham. Still, the doctor said he is seeing a disconnect between what people know and how they apply that knowledge in their lives.

Dr. Stringham said county residents understand the importance of wearing masks, distancing socially and washing hands frequently.

“But when it comes to family members who just arrived from out-of-state, or a co-worker who offers an invitation to get together with friends, we are failing to apply those concepts,” he said. “The very same people who know point by point how to protect themselves are not applying that knowledge to real life, and we are seeing the virus spread.”

Dr. Stringham reminded residents that the COVID-19 virus usually does not look like a stranger. “It looks like your brother, or your long-time friend, or a favorite co-worker. In most cases, it’s not going to look like someone you don’t know, so think clearly and put those preventative measures into practice.”

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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