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# Humboldt County Health Board

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



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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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## **HUMBOLDT COUNTY LOOKING FOR MORE CONTACT TRACERS AS LOCAL CASES RISE**

WINNEMUCCA, Nev—As confirmed cases of COVID-19 in Humboldt County continue to rise to their highest levels yet, officials are calling for one of the most important resources to help curb the spread of the pandemic: contact tracers.

Humboldt County Health Officer Charles Stringham, MD, said contact tracers play a crucial role in the battle to contain the spread of the COVID-19 virus.

“This is a paid part-time position,” he said, “but if you enjoy helping others, especially in critical ways and would like to help make a difference in our community, this might be a wonderful way for you to make a contribution.”

Humboldt County launched the Fast Team of contact tracers early in the pandemic. Tracers work together to call people who have tested positive for the virus as well as those who may have had contact with a positive case.

Dr. Stringham said the team has been an essential link in the fight against COVID-19, but as the number of COVID-19 cases has accelerated, the demand on current contact tracers has also increased.

“The dramatic rise in COVID-19 cases in our county is more than our current contact tracers are able to handle,” said Dr. Stringham. “We need additional tracers to help us contain the spread.”

Humboldt County is looking to add approximately six more contact tracers to the Humboldt County Fast Team. Tracers may come from all walks of life, ages and educational backgrounds, but the doctor said the most successful candidates will be extremely detail-oriented with a desire to make a difference.

Because contact tracers deal with private patient information, they also must have the ability to work confidentially. “People who cannot do this cannot be considered,” said Dr. Stringham.

For new hires, the job will be a rewarding mixture of detective work, communication and counseling. Dr. Stringham the right candidates also will exhibit a great deal of kindness and compassion.

“People will want to know how long they should quarantine, what to do about their kids, if they can still

care for their elderly mother,” said Dr. Stringham. “We expect our tracers to understand that this is a very difficult time for people and that it’s not easy to solve life’s challenges while also dealing with COVID-19.”

Still, Dr. Stringham said the contact tracing process is critical to controlling the virus.

“With COVID-19, we don’t have primary prevention tools like a vaccine,” said Dr. Stringham, “so controlling the spread is our next best option until the primary prevention tools become available.”

Dr. Stringham added, “We’ve got a long fall and winter ahead of us, but with the right people, I know Humboldt County will be in good hands.”

To learn more about joining the Humboldt County Fast Team as a part-time, home-based contact tracer, please call Humboldt County Manager Dave Mendiola at (775) 623-6300, or email at [COVID19@humboldtcountynv.gov](mailto:COVID19@humboldtcountynv.gov).

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