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Dr. Charles Stringham

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Mike Bell, County Commissioner

Mike Allen, Humboldt County Sheriff

Humboldt County Health Board

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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HUMBOLDT COUNTY REPORTS 244 TOTAL CONFIRMATIONS, 45 ACTIVE CASES

WINNEMUCCA, Nev.— Humboldt County has been notified of three more positive cases of coronavirus disease 2019 (COVID-19), raising the county's total to 244.

One of Humboldt County's confirmations from November 16 was given to Washoe County, which dropped Humboldt County's cumulative total to 241; today's three cases raise the county's total to 244.

Overall, 190 of Humboldt County's cases were identified through Humboldt General Hospital, one was identified through community-based screening, 14 were identified through the Golden Valley Medical Center, 20 were identified through testing at the Ridley's Pharmacy, and 19 were confirmed out of area.

In addition, the Office of the Humboldt County Community Health Nurse has completed 65 tests. 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 is reporting 124 positive cases; 108 were confirmed through the Fort McDermitt Wellness Center, eight were tested out of area, and eight were tested through the National Guard community-based testing on July 26. In all, Fort McDermitt has completed 1,566 tests, 113 people have recovered, one person has died, and the tribe has 10 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 244 – A male child, who had contact with a previously reported case. He is self-isolating at home.
- Case 243 – A woman in her 60s, whose case remains under investigation. She is self-isolating at home.
- Case 242 – A man in his 20s, whose case remains under investigation. He is self-isolating at home.

Of the previous 241 cases, 195 have recovered, 36 are self-isolating, six are hospitalized, and four have died; Humboldt County has 45 active cases.

When COVID-19 became big news in the spring, it seemed highly unlikely and nearly impossible that small towns would see the same surges that big cities were experiencing.

“But that time is gone,” said Humboldt County Health Officer Charles Stringham, MD. “Small towns—rural America—is right in the thick of COVID-19.”

Dr. Stringham said even Esmeralda County, the last remaining Nevada county—and one of three in the United States—to be COVID-free, reported its first case of the virus Friday; today, five people have tested positive.

“It very literally is everywhere,” said the doctor, “and we must follow the governor’s stay at home order as closely as possible in order to not promote the virus’s spread.”

Last week, Governor Steve Sisolak urged Nevadans to voluntarily take more precautionary measures to stop the spread of the disease. The governor warned the state is seeing “alarming” trends of the virus climbing and threatened to impose stricter measures if the spread of the virus does not decrease.

Dr. Stringham urged residents to only go out for essential activities, to rely on take-out instead of dining in restaurants and to avoid spending time indoors with people from outside their households.

“Please take this time to stay in, to stay safe and to help calm the virus,” he said. “We have some beautiful holidays ahead of us and we want to ensure our community can remain as healthy as possible.”

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 5 p.m. Monday through Friday, the clinic offers drive-thru screening for asymptomatic and symptomatic persons. 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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