

Chair & County Health Officer,

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 267 TOTAL CONFIRMATIONS, 65 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 267.

The Fort McDermitt Paiute Shoshone Tribe is reporting 137 positive cases. In all, Fort McDermitt has completed 2,073 tests, 119 people have recovered, one person has died, and the tribe has 17 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 267 – A man in his 20s, whose case remains under investigation. He is self-isolating at home.
- Case 266 – A man in his 30s, whose case remains under investigation. He is self-isolating at home.
- Case 265 – A female teen, whose case remains under investigation. She is self-isolating at home.
- Case 264 – A female teen, who is a close contact of a previously reported case. She is self-isolating at home.
- Case 263 – A woman in her 40s, who had close contact with a previously reported case. She is self-isolating at home.

Of the previous 262 cases, 198 have recovered, 55 are self-isolating, five are hospitalized, and four have died; Humboldt County has 65 active cases.

The number of cases diagnosed in Humboldt County has been steadily increasing for weeks. This week alone, Humboldt has reported more new cases of COVID-19 than were diagnosed during the months of June, July and August.

Humboldt's numbers do not include more than 20 new cases diagnosed at Fort McDermitt this week, nor do they factor in 77 new cases of COVID-19 diagnosed at the Humboldt Conservation Camp minimum security prison facility west of Winnemucca.

All 95 offenders at the camp were tested on November 12 as part of routine and ongoing testing by the Nevada Department of Corrections. All offenders who tested negative on November 12 were retested yesterday and results are pending.

Of the 11 staff assigned to the camp, six are out with COVID-19 or have had close contact with someone who tested positive for the virus and are in quarantine to monitor symptoms and avoid further spread.

Humboldt County Health Officer said the sheer number of new cases in and around Winnemucca can be discouraging to local residents—especially as some begin to question the efficacy of wearing masks.

“I hear many people now saying that if masks worked, we would not be seeing new cases,” said Dr. Stringham. “Please note that a mask is not a substitute for social distancing. Masks should be worn in addition to staying at least 6 feet apart.”

Dr. Stringham said the county’s largest problem right now is not a lack of mask wearing: it’s a lack of social distancing, especially with regard to small private gatherings that seem to be at the epicenter of Humboldt County’s current spike.

“Wearing a mask is highly effective and can make your daily life safer for those around you, but it's not a permission slip to break the 6-foot rule,” he said. “Both masks and social distancing are needed to help reduce the spread.”

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](#).

COVID-19 testing locations in Humboldt County include:

- **Humboldt General Hospital Screening Clinic** - Offers drive-thru screening for asymptomatic and symptomatic persons. Open from 8 a.m. to 5 p.m. Monday through Friday, 51 E. Haskell Street, across from Humboldt General Hospital. Call the posted number and then wait for assistance.
- **Golden Valley Medical Center** - Private clinic owned by Nevada Gold offers screening for asymptomatic and symptomatic persons. Call (775) 625-4653 for an appointment.
- **Ridley's Pharmacy** - Offers in-vehicle, self-administered asymptomatic and symptomatic testing. Go [here](#) and follow the prompts to schedule an appointment.
- **HGH Emergency Department** - Those who experience severe COVID-like symptoms should go directly to the HGH Emergency Department, which is open 24 hours a day, or call 9-1-1 for

emergency assistance.

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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