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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 590 TOTAL CONFIRMATIONS, 310 ACTIVE CASES

WINNEMUCCA, Nev.— Humboldt County has been notified of 17 more positive cases of coronavirus disease 2019 (COVID-19), raising the county’s total to 590.

The Fort McDermitt Paiute Shoshone Tribe reports 157 positive cases. In all, Fort McDermitt has completed 2,387 tests, 143 people have recovered, one person has died, and the tribe has 13 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 #	Gender	Age Range	Contact	Status
590	Woman	50s	Investigation in progress	Self-isolating
589	Man	30s	Investigation in progress	Self-isolating
588	Woman	30s	Investigation in progress	Self-isolating
587	Man	20s	Investigation in progress	Self-isolating
586	Woman	20s	Investigation in progress	Self-isolating
585	Man	30s	Investigation in progress	Self-isolating
584	Woman	40s	Investigation in progress	Self-isolating
583	Woman	50s	Investigation in progress	Self-isolating
582	Woman	30s	Investigation in progress	Self-isolating
581	Man	70s	Investigation in progress	Self-isolating
580	Woman	70s	Investigation in progress	Self-isolating
579	Man	50s	Investigation in progress	Self-isolating
578	Man	60s	Investigation in progress	Self-isolating
577	Man	20s	Investigation in progress	Self-isolating
576	Female	Teen	Investigation in progress	Self-isolating
575	Male	Teen	Investigation in progress	Self-isolating
574	Man	50s	Investigation in progress	Self-isolating

Of the previous 573 cases, 273 have recovered, 288 are self-isolating, five are hospitalized locally, and seven have died; Humboldt County has 310 active cases.

COVID-19 has already impacted millions of people across the country since March. With the arrival of flu season in October, local residents may find it difficult to distinguish between the two.

COVID-19 and the flu are both caused by viruses that can result in respiratory illness and they do share some similar symptoms, including fever, cough, sore throat, runny nose or congestion, body aches, fatigue, diarrhea, headache and/or chills.

While there are a few symptoms that are more specific to COVID-19, including loss of taste or smell and shortness of breath, Humboldt County Health Officer Charles Stringham, MD, said even medical professionals find it difficult to tell the difference between COVID-19 and the flu based on symptoms alone.

“But testing is where we can differentiate between the two,” said Dr. Stringham. “COVID-19, is caused by SARS-CoV-2, a novel coronavirus that just emerged last year, while flu is caused by different strains of the influenza virus.”

Dr. Stringham said both viruses use molecular or antigen testing methods to detect the virus, but testing can very clearly pinpoint which virus is at play.

“Social media channels are rife with misinformation that the two viruses are indistinguishable—even through testing—and that is just not true,” said Dr. Stringham.

“When we say that someone has been confirmed to have the coronavirus, that is because testing has absolutely confirmed that diagnosis. The same would be true if they test for the flu.”

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 persons from 8 a.m. to 5 p.m. seven days a week (closed from noon to 1 p.m. for lunch), and by-appointment screening with a provider for symptomatic persons from 8 a.m. to 5 p.m. Monday through Friday

(closed from noon to 1 p.m. for lunch; call 775-623-5222, ext. 1379 to schedule an appointment).
Located at 51 E. Haskell Street, across from Humboldt General Hospital.

- **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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