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Ken Tipton, County Commission Chair

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Jim French, County Commissioner

Ron Cerri, County Commissioner

Tom Hoss, County Commissioner

Mike Allen, Humboldt County Sheriff

# Humboldt County Health Board

Humboldt County Courthouse  
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Winnemucca, Nevada 89445



February 5, 2021

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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## HUMBOLDT COUNTY REPORTS FIVE NEW CASES, 1027 TOTAL CONFIRMATIONS

WINNEMUCCA, Nev.—Humboldt County has been notified of five more positive cases of coronavirus disease 2019 (COVID-19). In addition, two cases were removed from the county today, leaving an overall total of 1027.

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
1027	Man	50s	Investigation in progress	Self-isolating
1026	Female	Teen	Investigation in progress	Self-isolating
1025	Male	Child	Investigation in progress	Self-isolating
1024	Woman	70s	Investigation in progress	Self-isolating
1023	Man	50s	Investigation in progress	Self-isolating

One COVID-19 patient is currently hospitalized locally and 13 county residents have died. Humboldt County has at least 29 active cases, although multiple testing sites, hospitalizations and other factors make it difficult to provide an exact number.

Facebook posts have shared claims that the American Medical Association has reversed its stance against prescribing hydroxychloroquine, an anti-malaria drug that was initially touted as a COVID-19 treatment. But a closer look at the American Medical Association’s decision reveals that is not correct.

Humboldt County Health Officer Charles Stringham, MD, explains: “Early on in the COVID-19 pandemic, there was some interest in hydroxychloroquine as a COVID-19 treatment because early studies in the lab showed promise: they found the drug had some antiviral effect on the cells infected with SARS-CoV-2.”

The Food and Drug Administration approved emergency use of hydroxychloroquine for a short time. However, the agency pulled approval after a large study found no evidence that the drug could stop deaths or help people with COVID-19 get better faster.

Some have claimed online that the American Medical Association quietly rescinded its opposition to prescribing hydroxychloroquine to COVID-19 patients; however, the AMA has reiterated that “its position remains unchanged.”

The claim arose from a proposal, Resolution 509, to rescind the AMA’s position statement on hydroxychloroquine. It was presented for consideration to the AMA House of Delegates, the organization’s policy-making body, in a special meeting in November. However, the 690 physicians and medical students who make up the House of Delegates rejected the proposal.

Instead, the House of Delegates reaffirmed current AMA policy supporting the decision-making authority of a physician on off-label uses of pharmaceuticals while, at the same time, cautioning hospitals, health systems, other entities, and individual practitioners that no medication has been FDA-approved for use in COVID-19 patients.

“While we wish there was a super-drug—a fix-it-all—that could cure COVID-19, there is no such thing,” said Dr. Stringham. “Instead, we must stick to the tried-and-true practices that have kept us safe and will continue to keep us safe, like wearing masks, distancing socially, avoiding gathering and practicing good hand hygiene. Those things do prevent COVID-19.”

Residents are encouraged to call the Humboldt County COVID-19 Vaccine Recorded Information Line at (775) 375-3200 for information about future vaccination opportunities. The line is updated every Monday and Thursday, or as needed.

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. Monday through Friday (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.

Local COVID-19 information is available in Spanish @CovidEspanol. Humboldt County COVID-19 updates and information are available in English at @HumboldtCountyNV and @StopHumboldtCoronavirus.

Humboldt County has established a COVID-19 vaccine recorded information line. Call (775) 375-3200 to hear the latest about vaccine allocations, local distribution opportunities and changes as they occur. The line will be updated with new information every Monday and Thursday, or as needed.

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