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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Contact: Nicole Maher, PIO  
Humboldt County Health Board  
Phone: (775) 761-2624  
Email: nicole.maher@humboldtcountynv.gov

## **HUMBOLDT COUNTY VACCINATES HUNDREDS AS PART OF COMMUNITY DISTRIBUTION** **All county residents age 18 and older can now receive the vaccine**

WINNEMUCCA, Nev—It should have been pandemonium as more than 1,000 local residents were vaccinated against coronavirus in just eight hours.

But the comments from participants at the March 8-9 community COVID-19 vaccination POD at the Winnemucca Event Center shared a different picture: “Awesome job, I went right through it and got my shot, thank you,” said one participant. Another shared, “Thank you! You guys did a super job. Good team.”

Dozens of others expressed similar kudos and expressions of thanks via social media, phone, text and email.

The drive-through POD (point of distribution) was organized by Humboldt County Community Health Nurse Marsha Foreman, RN, and Humboldt County Emergency Manager Captain Sean Wilkin.

Together the two, along with a small army of healthcare, law enforcement and community workers, provided the first dose of the Moderna COVID-19 vaccine to nearly 1,400 Humboldt County residents over the course of the two-day event.

“A vaccine distribution like this takes an amazing amount of work and coordination,” said Foreman, “but we also knew it would be a great way to protect a lot of people in a short amount of time, so it was definitely worth the effort.”

Foreman and Captain Wilkin had to reserve vaccine allocations from the state for weeks in order to host the POD. As a result, approximately 40 persons were able to be vaccinated every 15 minutes.

Helping hands came from Humboldt County Community Health, Humboldt County Sheriff’s Office, Winnemucca Police Department, HGH EMS Rescue, Humboldt County, Pleasant Senior Center, Great Basin College Nursing Program, Humboldt County Sheriff’s Office Search and Rescue, Nevada Gold Mines and the community.

Foreman and Captain Wilkin also gave a shout out to Nevada Gold Mines for providing a meal for volunteers on both days. They also acknowledged the Humboldt County Commission in providing the

venue and the resources for the POD to take place.

The distribution was originally offered to seniors age 65 and older and priority workforce groups. When registrations slowed, Foreman and Captain Wilkin decided to open to all Humboldt County residents age 18 and older; within 48 hours, nearly all appointments were booked.

“We’ve heard from a lot of Humboldt County residents who were in disbelief that they could get a vaccine so early in the year,” said Captain Wilkin. “They were expecting to be fully vaccinated by the end of summer, so this was a welcome surprise.”

The even better news is that now, as a result of the expanded opening, all 18 and older age groups in Humboldt County are considered "priority," so any adult can be vaccinated as the opportunity presents itself.

Foreman said youth under age 18 will likely have the opportunity to be vaccinated later this year or in early 2022 after vaccine clinical trials are complete.

Those who participated in the March 8-9 POD should plan to return to the Winnemucca Events Center April 5-6 for the second dose of the vaccine. Humboldt County will release the second dose registration site on Monday, March 22; once again, participants will need to bring completed paperwork and a confirmation “ticket.”

That link will be shared on the Humboldt County, Nevada, Facebook page @HumboldtCountyNV and on the county’s recorded vaccine information line at (775) 375-3200. That line is updated every Monday and Thursday, or as needed, so residents are encouraged to call often to stay up to date on local vaccination opportunities.

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