

# Humboldt County Health Board

Humboldt County Courthouse  
50 West Fifth Street Room 205  
Winnemucca, Nevada 89445



July 30, 2021

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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

## **HUMBOLDT COUNTY MODERATE RISK FOR NOW; OFFICIALS URGE RESIDENTS TO USE CAUTION**

WINNEMUCCA, Nev.— The State of Nevada has once again implemented a directive requiring people to wear masks in indoor settings, although local residents are not currently affected.

Governor Steve Sisolak's Emergency Directive 047 became effective at 12:01 a.m. Friday, July 30, 2021, for Carson, Churchill, Clark, Douglas, Elko, Esmeralda, Lincoln, Lyon, Mineral, Nye, Washoe and White Pine counties.

Humboldt, Eureka and Lander counties are listed as moderate risk and are not currently required to adopt the updated mask mandate; Pershing and Storey counties are considered low transmission.

The indoor masking recommendation follows updated guidance released by the U.S. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention on Tuesday, July 27. Per an earlier directive from the governor, the State of Nevada automatically adopts all CDC guidance related to COVID-19.

The state provided a three-day grace period until Friday morning to allow businesses and residents time to adapt to the new guidelines regardless of vaccination status.

While Humboldt is not included on the list of counties required to wear masks, Humboldt County Health Officer Charles Stringham, MD, is hopeful that local residents can avoid the state-imposed mandate through careful social distancing and avoidance of gatherings.

"Humboldt County residents are well informed and have shown that we have the capacity to stop the spread of this virus," said Dr. Stringham. "The delta variant is more infectious, but the techniques for avoidance are all the same."

"I'm confident that we can rise to the occasion and do what we've done before. If all of us do these things, then no state-imposed mandate will have to happen in our county."

Dr. Stringham said he was stunned in May when the CDC decided to recommend that the vaccinated no longer wear masks.

"First, all good safety strategies have multiple layers. Certainly, the CDC would not have recommended

removal of seatbelts in cars with airbags. These vaccinations are very effective, but they're not perfect."

The doctor continued, "Second, people are burned out with COVID, so when the CDC gives two opposite recommendations in rapid succession, many who are understandably tired of this become even more frustrated."

Humboldt County's test positivity rate has increased from a 2021 low of 1.5 percent on June 18 to 4.7 percent in just over a month's time. In addition, July's 32 case confirmations have surpassed those of May (28) and June (19).

Local hospitalizations have also increased over the past weeks. The Nevada Hospital Association has confirmed that hospitalized patients have been younger on average than in previous surges.

"My biggest concern about the delta variant is that it tends to cause younger people to become more critically ill than the initial variants," said Dr. Stringham. "But if everyone gets vaccinated, and the total number of infected people goes down, the virus's opportunity to mutate will also go down. That's the way to win this."

To learn about the latest vaccination opportunities in Humboldt County, please call the COVID-19 vaccine recorded information line at (775) 375-3200. The line is updated with new information every Friday (not including holidays), or as needed. Information is also available by emailing [vaccine@humboldtcountynev.gov](mailto:vaccine@humboldtcountynev.gov).

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