

Chair & County Health Officer,

Dr. Charles Stringham

Board Members,

Ken Tipton, County Commission Chair

Marlene Brissenden, County Commissioner

Jim French, County Commissioner

Ron Cerri, County Commissioner

Mike Bell, County Commissioner

Mike Allen, Humboldt County Sheriff

Humboldt County Health Board

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



August 23, 2020

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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

HUMBOLDT COUNTY REPORTS TWO NEW CONFIRMATIONS, SIX ACTIVE CASES

WINNEMUCCA, Nev.— Humboldt County has been notified of two more positive cases of coronavirus disease 2019 (COVID-19), raising the county's total to 109.

Ninety-seven of Humboldt County's cases were identified through Humboldt General Hospital, one was identified through community-based screening, and 11 were confirmed out of area. HGH has completed 1,790 tests; 62 results are pending.

In addition, the Office of the Humboldt County Community Health Nurse has completed 56 tests, with 48 negative and eight results pending. Any positives through the Community Health Nurse will be reported as part of Humboldt County's total number of cases.

The Fort McDermitt Paiute Shoshone Tribe has 82 total cases; 74 were confirmed through the Fort McDermitt Wellness Center, while eight were tested through the National Guard community-based testing on July 26. In all, Fort McDermitt has completed 579 tests, 36 people have recovered, one person has died and the tribe has 45 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 case follows:

- Case 109 – A woman in her 30s, whose case remains under investigation. She is self-isolating at home.
- Case 108 – A woman in her 20s, whose case remains under investigation. She is self-isolating at home.

Of the previous 107 cases, 99 have recovered, four are self-isolating and four have died; Humboldt County has six active cases.

Experts are noting examples across the country of how social gatherings, such as parties and meetings, can quickly spread COVID-19. Even gatherings among extended family members can lead to widespread infection.

“In so many cases, one person who wasn’t aware they had the virus spread it to a gathering of people, who then spread it to each of their groups and so forth,” said Humboldt County Health Officer Charles Stringham, MD.

“It’s simple to see how one seemingly innocuous gathering can generate a viral epicenter,” he added.

Dr. Stringham said Humboldt County’s COVID-19 cases initially sparked as a result of several gatherings, and cases continue to originate from local residents getting together without proper precautions.

“You can still gather,” he said, “but everyone must wear a mask and everyone must socially distance. You don’t know who in that crowd—even if it’s a small crowd—has COVID, so you must continue to take precautions.”

Dr. Stringham added, “If a group believes they are beyond these needed precautions, they may run the risk of launching a whole new chain of infection.”

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](#).

The Humboldt General Hospital Screening Clinic continues to test symptomatic and exposed residents from 8 a.m. to 5 p.m. Monday through Friday. The clinic may be accessed from the ramp entrance on Mizpah Street. Residents should call (775) 623-5222, ext. 1379, to alert staff and then wait for assistance.

The Office of the Humboldt County Community Health Nurse also is offering testing to asymptomatic persons with no known exposure. For more information or to make an appointment, residents may call the clinic at (775) 623-6575.

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.

###