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Mike Bell, County Commissioner

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Humboldt County Health Board

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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HUMBOLDT COUNTY REPORTS THREE NEW CONFIRMATIONS, FOUR ACTIVE CASES

WINNEMUCCA, Nev.— Humboldt County has been notified of three more positive cases of coronavirus disease 2019 (COVID-19), raising the county's total to 114.

Overall, 101 of Humboldt County's cases were identified through Humboldt General Hospital, one was identified through community-based screening, and 12 were confirmed out of area. HGH has completed 1,986 tests; 42 results are pending.

In addition, the Office of the Humboldt County Community Health Nurse has completed 56 tests, with 56 negative and no 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 84 total cases; 76 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 661 tests, 71 people have recovered, one person has died, two people are hospitalized and the tribe has 14 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 114 – A woman in her 30s, who is a close contact of a previously reported case. She is self-isolating at home.
- Case 113 – A man in his 30s, whose case remains under investigation. He is hospitalized.
- Case 112 – A male teen, whose case remains under investigation. He is self-isolating at home.

Of the previous 111 cases, 106 have recovered, one is self-isolating and four have died; Humboldt County has four active cases.

October marks the beginning of the annual flu season in the United States, and Humboldt County Health Officer Charles Stringham, MD, said this may be the most important year yet to get a flu shot.

The annual Drive-Thru Flu POD has been scheduled for 4 p.m. to 8 p.m. Wednesday, September 23, at the indoor Winnemucca Event Center.

The vaccinations are provided by the Nevada Division of Public and Behavioral Health; Humboldt County Community Health Nurse Marsha Foreman, RN, will oversee the distribution. All residents, age 6 months and up, are urged to receive this year's flu vaccine free of charge.

Dr. Stringham said flu is a serious illness: an average of 200,000 Americans are hospitalized and between 3,000 and 49,000 people die each year from flu-related causes in the U.S.

Since February 2020, COVID-19 also has resulted in hundreds of thousands of hospitalizations and, as of early September, 187,000 deaths from COVID-related complications.

Dr. Stringham said the convergence of the two illnesses on Humboldt County could result in some very serious outcomes for local residents.

"But even with flu season joining our fight against COVID-19, we know what we need to do," he said. "The best precautions we can take are getting a flu shot, wearing a mask, maintaining a proper social distance, being conscientious about hand washing, and if we are ill, limiting our contact with others as much as possible."

Dr. Stringham added, "If we can continue to do these important things, we can remain protected against these potentially life-threatening illnesses."

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 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.

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