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Mike Bell, County Commissioner

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Humboldt County Health Board

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October 1, 2020

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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HUMBOLDT COUNTY REPORTS 130 TOTAL CONFIRMATIONS, 10 ACTIVE CASES

WINNEMUCCA, Nev.— Humboldt County has been notified of one more positive case of coronavirus disease 2019 (COVID-19), raising the county's total to 130.

Overall, 111 of Humboldt County's cases were identified through Humboldt General Hospital, one was identified through community-based screening, four were identified at the Golden Valley Medical Center, two were identified through testing at the Ridley's Pharmacy, and 12 were confirmed out of area.

In addition, the Office of the Humboldt County Community Health Nurse has completed 58 tests, with 57 negative and one result pending. Any positives through the Community Health Nurse are reported as part of Humboldt County's total number of cases.

The Fort McDermitt Paiute Shoshone Tribe reports 91 total cases; 76 were confirmed through the Fort McDermitt Wellness Center, six were tested out of area, while eight were tested through the National Guard community-based testing on July 26. In all, Fort McDermitt has completed 805 tests, 90 people have recovered, one person has died, and the tribe has one active case.

Based on available information, close contacts of the newest Humboldt County case 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 130 – A female child, whose case remains under investigation. She is in quarantine.

Of the previous 129 cases, 116 have recovered, eight are self-isolating, one is hospitalized and four have died; Humboldt County has 10 active cases.

During the month of September, Humboldt County was notified of 19 new cases, raising the cumulative total from 112 on September 5 to 130 on September 30.

Of the month's 19 cases, two were close contacts of a previously reported case; three had contact with a previously reported case; and 14 were initially listed as "under investigation."

Humboldt County Health Officer Charles Stringham, MD, said once the FAST team of contact tracers receives confirmation of a COVID-19 case, their first priority is to isolate that person to mitigate any further spread of the virus; their second priority is to work with that person directly to confirm any contacts who may need to be quarantined and tested for the virus.

“But even with a list of contacts, it may not be immediately apparent how that person was infected,” said Dr. Stringham, “so our contact tracers go to work solving the mystery. When that happens, we classify a case as ‘under investigation.’”

Dr. Stringham said a person may have contracted the virus through an asymptomatic or pre-symptomatic carrier (a person who is infected but does not show symptoms yet); from a person who has symptoms but has not been identified as a personal contact of the case; or from some form of gathering where the person was likely exposed to the virus.

In contrast, a “close contact” is usually someone close to the confirmed person, like a family member. If a case indicates a person “had close contact,” it means they were within 6 feet of a person now known to be infected with COVID-19 for a period of time.

“It’s quite a system to help identify who had contact with whom,” said Dr. Stringham.

But the doctor agreed contact tracers are the unsung heroes in Humboldt County’s fight against COVID-19.

“Without their help, our ‘under investigation’ cases would never be resolved,” he said. “Instead, we have had very few instances where our tracers were not able to eventually drill down to the details.”

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 has moved to the HGH West Campus, located at 51 E. Haskell Street. From 8 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. Monday through Friday, the clinic offers drive-thru screening for asymptomatic and symptomatic persons with a doctor’s order only. Those who are experiencing severe COVID-like symptoms should go directly to the HGH Emergency Department.

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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