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Mike Bell, County Commissioner

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# Humboldt County Health Board

Humboldt County Courthouse  
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October 26, 2020

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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## **HUMBOLDT COUNTY REPORTS 173 TOTAL CONFIRMATIONS, 23 ACTIVE CASES**

WINNEMUCCA, Nev.— Humboldt County has been notified of four more positive cases of coronavirus disease 2019 (COVID-19), raising the county's total to 173.

Overall, 138 of Humboldt County's cases were identified through Humboldt General Hospital, one was identified through community-based screening, eight were identified through the Golden Valley Medical Center, 10 were identified through testing at the Ridley's Pharmacy, and 16 were confirmed out of area.

In addition, the Office of the Humboldt County Community Health Nurse has completed 60 tests, with 58 negative and two results 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 is reporting 107 total cases; 90 were confirmed through the Fort McDermitt Wellness Center, eight 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 1,238 tests, 102 people have recovered, one person has died, and the tribe has four 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 cases follows:

- Case 173 – A woman in her 50s, whose case remains under investigation. She is self-isolating at home.
- Case 172 – A woman in her 20s, whose case remains under investigation. She is self-isolating at home.
- Case 171 – A man in his 60s, whose case remains under investigation. He is self-isolating at home.
- Case 170 – A man in his 20s, whose case remains under investigation. He is self-isolating at home.

Of the previous 169 cases, 146 have recovered, 16 are self-isolating, three are hospitalized, and four have died; Humboldt County has 23 active cases.

Last week, the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) issued updated guidance regarding identification of a close contact for COVID-19.

Previously, a close contact was defined as being within six feet of an infectious individual for 15 minutes. Now, the updated guidance suggests that those spending a total of 15 minutes within six feet of an infectious person over the course of a 24-hour period should be considered in close contact.

Humboldt County Health Officer Charles Stringham, MD, said the updated guidance significantly changes what constitutes a “close contact.”

“Now, instead of concentrating on one consecutive 15-minute encounter, we are concentrating on multiple brief interactions with an infectious person,” said the doctor, “if those interactions total 15 minutes or longer.”

Dr. Stringham said the Fast Team contact tracers are using the expanded definition during their investigation efforts to capture all close contacts and help slow the spread of the disease.

He said it’s critical for local residents to also be aware of the updated definition as they interact with others.

“This change suggests that we need to be more careful about brief interactions. We shouldn’t think to ourselves: ‘This will only be a minute; I don’t need my mask.’ The importance of wearing masks at all times to protect others has never been clearer. We may not know that we’re infected, and even a brief, unmasked encounter could spread the virus.”

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. 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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