

# Humboldt County Health Board



November 9, 2020

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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

## **HUMBOLDT COUNTY REPORTS 203 TOTAL CONFIRMATIONS, 24 ACTIVE CASES**

WINNEMUCCA, Nev.— Humboldt County has been notified of nine more positive cases of coronavirus disease 2019 (COVID-19), raising the county's total to 203.

Overall, 153 of Humboldt County's cases were identified through Humboldt General Hospital, one was identified through community-based screening, 13 were identified through the Golden Valley Medical Center, 19 were identified through testing at the Ridley's Pharmacy, and 17 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 113 total cases; 97 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 1,428 tests, 108 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 203 – A man in his 60s, whose case remains under investigation. He is self-isolating at home.
- Case 202 – A woman in her 60s, who had contact with a previously reported case. She is self-isolating at home.
- Case 201 – A man in his 60s, who had contact with a previously reported case. He is self-isolating at home.
- Case 200 – A man in his 20s, whose case remains under investigation. He is self-isolating at home.
- Case 199 – A man in his 20s, whose case remains under investigation. He is self-isolating at home.
- Case 198 – A male teen, whose case remains under investigation. He is self-isolating at home.
- Case 197 – A woman in her 40s, whose case remains under investigation. She is self-isolating at home.

- Case 196 – A woman in her 60s, whose case remains under investigation. She is self-isolating at home.
- Case 195 – A man in his 50s, whose case remains under investigation. He is self-isolating at home.

Of the previous 194 cases, 178 have recovered, 11 are self-isolating, one is hospitalized, and four have died; Humboldt County has 21 active cases.

With COVID-19 numbers reaching their highest levels yet in Humboldt County, officials say testing for COVID-19 is critical—including for people who don't show any symptoms.

Humboldt County Health Officer Charles Stringham, MD, said, "Based on the data our contact tracers are gathering, we are identifying quite a few people who are asymptomatic carriers."

While the doctor said being symptom-free is safe for the carrier, it can prove very dangerous for those who come in contact with the asymptomatic person.

"Everyone is on guard against the person who is coughing or feverish," said Dr. Stringham, "but when they're around a person who doesn't exhibit any symptoms, they tend to let their guards down—potentially exposing themselves to the virus."

The doctor said that's the biggest reason public health officials have suggested everyone wear a mask. It's also the reason for social distancing.

"Many times, we don't know that we are carrying the virus, or that the person next to us is carrying the virus. The only way to protect others and ourselves is by making those precautionary measures a routine part of our day."

Dr. Stringham said testing is also critical for anyone who may have been exposed to the virus.

"We know now that symptom-free doesn't mean virus-free so we need everyone to be tested, not only to identify an individual's status, but to provide a better understanding of the virus's impact on the community."

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 5 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.