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Dr. Charles Stringham

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Ken Tipton, County Commission Chair

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Jim French, County Commissioner

Ron Cerri, County Commissioner

Tom Hoss, County Commissioner

Mike Allen, Humboldt County Sheriff

# Humboldt County Health Board

Humboldt County Courthouse  
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Winnemucca, Nevada 89445



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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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## HUMBOLDT COUNTY REPORTS 925 TOTAL CONFIRMATIONS, 447 ACTIVE CASES

WINNEMUCCA, Nev.—Humboldt County has been notified of five more positive cases of coronavirus disease 2019 (COVID-19), raising the county's total to 925.

The Fort McDermitt Paiute Shoshone Tribe reports 193 positive cases. In all, Fort McDermitt has completed 2,709 tests, 181 people have recovered, one person has died, and the tribe has 11 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 #	Gender	Age Range	Contact	Status
925	Woman	40s	Investigation in progress	Self-isolating
924	Woman	70s	Investigation in progress	Self-isolating
923	Man	20s	Investigation in progress	Self-isolating
922	Man	90s	Investigation in progress	Self-isolating
921	Man	70s	Investigation in progress	Self-isolating

Of the previous 920 cases, 467 have recovered, 438 are self-isolating, four are hospitalized locally, and 11 have died; Humboldt County has 447 active cases.

Now that the COVID-19 pandemic is well underway, we know that widespread testing with quick turnaround times is essential to controlling the spread of the virus. However, some have wondered about the accuracy of the tests that diagnose current infection.

Humboldt County Health Officer Charles Stringham, MD, said the molecular (PCR) and antigen tests that are used to diagnose SARS-CoV-2, the virus that causes COVID-19, are very unlikely to return a false positive. "If the test comes back positive, we can be sure that it has correctly detected genetic material from the virus," he said.

On the other hand, Dr. Stringham said both tests can produce some percentage of false negatives based on various factors.

For instance, with the molecular test (the most common nasal swab test), the accuracy of the test depends on how long the infection has been present. When testing is performed five or more days after exposure, or after symptoms manifest, the false-negative rate is much lower than earlier in the infection, when exposure has just happened and/or no symptoms are present.

With an antigen test, results are available in minutes; however, false negative results tend to occur more often with antigen tests than with molecular tests, so testing sites may confirm a negative diagnosis with a molecular test, especially if the person is manifesting COVID-like symptoms.

Still, Dr. Stringham said every test's accuracy is dependent on the ability of healthcare providers and clinical laboratory staff to follow the authorized instructions for testing, as recommended by the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC).

"Certainly, how carefully a specimen is collected and stored may affect accuracy," said Dr. Stringham, "but I feel confident that in the overwhelming majority of instances, a positive means a positive."

He added, "If a test comes back negative and there's some reason to suspect it may be false, then molecular testing should alleviate any question."

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](#).

COVID-19 testing locations in Humboldt County include:

- **Humboldt General Hospital Screening Clinic** - Offers drive-thru screening for asymptomatic persons from 8 a.m. to 5 p.m. Monday through Friday (closed from noon to 1 p.m. for lunch), and by-appointment screening with a provider for symptomatic persons from 8 a.m. to 5 p.m. Monday through Friday (closed from noon to 1 p.m. for lunch; call 775-623-5222, ext. 1379 to schedule an appointment). Located at 51 E. Haskell Street, across from Humboldt General Hospital.
- **Golden Valley Medical Center** - Private clinic owned by Nevada Gold offers screening for asymptomatic and symptomatic persons. Call (775) 625-4653 for an appointment.
- **Ridley's Pharmacy** - Offers in-vehicle, self-administered asymptomatic and symptomatic testing. Go [here](#) and follow the prompts to schedule an appointment.
- **HGH Emergency Department** - Those who experience severe COVID-like symptoms should go

directly to the HGH Emergency Department, which is open 24 hours a day, or call 9-1-1 for emergency assistance.

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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