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Dr. Charles Stringham

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Ron Cerri, County Commissioner

Tom Hoss, County Commissioner

Mike Allen, Humboldt County Sheriff

Humboldt County Health Board

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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HUMBOLDT COUNTY REPORTS SEVEN NEW CASES, 973 TOTAL CONFIRMATIONS

WINNEMUCCA, Nev.—Humboldt County has been notified of nine more positive cases of coronavirus disease 2019 (COVID-19), raising the county’s total to 973.

The Fort McDermitt Paiute Shoshone Tribe reports 193 positive cases. In all, Fort McDermitt has completed 2,763 tests, 186 people have recovered, one person has died, and the tribe has six 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
973	Woman	70s	Investigation in progress	Self-isolating
972	Woman	40s	Investigation in progress	Hospitalized
971	Man	30s	Investigation in progress	Self-isolating
970	Man	60s	Investigation in progress	Self-isolating
969	Man	30s	Investigation in progress	Self-isolating
968	Male	Teen	Investigation in progress	Self-isolating
967	Woman	70s	Investigation in progress	Self-isolating

Three COVID-19 patients are currently hospitalized locally and 11 have died. Humboldt County is currently conducting an audit of positive cases from all testing entities. Until that process is complete, we will not share updated recovery or active case numbers.

New strains of COVID-19, that were first detected in the United Kingdom and South Africa haven’t arrived in Nevada yet, but “it’s just a matter of time,” according to Humboldt County Health Officer Charles Stringham, MD.

While Dr. Stringham said the new mutations appear to be more contagious, they are not reported to affect the body any differently than the original strain that came from Wuhan, China.

“My understanding is these specific mutations don’t increase the severity of the disease,” said Dr. Stringham, “so that’s good news.”

However, Dr. Stringham said he’s concerned with information that indicates the mutations allow the virus to spread more quickly.

“That is very troubling,” said Dr. Stringham. “We are struggling with keeping our infections under control with the current strain. Without dedicated mask wearing and social distancing, we could see cases continue to surge.”

The Nevada State Public Health Laboratory is sequencing samples of positive cases every day for both the UK and South African variants of the virus; so far, neither has been detected. The state lab is also working with entities throughout the state to conduct the screenings.

“We will eventually see these strains come to Nevada and we will need to be prepared,” said Dr. Stringham. “COVID-19 is much more infectious than the flu, and these new strains will be much more infectious than the COVID we know, so we will need to put our greatest precautions into play.”

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.

Humboldt County has established a COVID-19 vaccine recorded information line. Call (775) 375-3200 to hear the latest about vaccine allocations, local distribution opportunities and changes as they occur. The line will be updated with new information every Monday and Thursday, or as needed, so call frequently to stay up to date.

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