

# Humboldt County Health Board



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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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## HUMBOLDT COUNTY REPORTS FIVE NEW CASES, 998 TOTAL CONFIRMATIONS

WINNEMUCCA, Nev.—Humboldt County has been notified of five more positive cases of coronavirus disease 2019 (COVID-19), raising the overall total to 998.

The Fort McDermitt Wellness Center reports 201 positive cases, 194 recoveries and six active cases. In all, the wellness center has completed 2,816 tests, and one member of the Fort McDermitt Paiute Shoshone Tribe has died.

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
998	Woman	30s	Investigation in progress	Self-isolating
997	Man	60s	Investigation in progress	Self-isolating
996	Man	60s	Investigation in progress	Self-isolating
995	Man	20s	Investigation in progress	Self-isolating
994	Woman	40s	Investigation in progress	Self-isolating

Three COVID-19 patients are currently hospitalized locally and 12 have died. Humboldt County is currently conducting an audit of positive cases from all testing entities. Until that process is complete, updated recovery and active case numbers will not be available.

State officials continue to watch for new coronavirus strains in Nevada—including variants from the United Kingdom, South Africa, Brazil, and some that have originated in the United States.

Humboldt County Health Officer Charles Stringham, MD, said it’s no surprise the coronavirus has mutated. “That’s what viruses do. Most mutations are useless, but every so often, a mutation will improve a virus’s ability to infect people.”

Dr. Stringham said experts suspect the new strains contain mutations that do make it easier for the virus

to bind to people's cells—making them much more transmissible than previous strains.

For instance, the UK strain is thought to be up to 70 percent more transmissible than the original strain—a fact that has thrust the United Kingdom into a lockdown. And the UK variant has already been detected in at least 15 U.S. states.

Dr. Stringham said there's currently no evidence the variants will affect the efficacy of COVID-19 vaccines or cause a more severe illness. Still, the [Centers for Disease Control and Prevention](#) is warning that one or more of the transmissible variants could dominate COVID-19 infections in the United States as early as March—a warning that Dr. Stringham echoes.

“We cannot let our guards down,” he said. “If ever there was time to wear masks, maintain social distancing and practice good hand hygiene, this is it,” he said. “Those measures will protect against any variant that comes along and will buy us time until more people can get vaccinated.”

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.

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