Dr. Charles Stringham

Humboldt County Health Board

Humboldt County Courthouse 50 West Fifth Street Room 205 Winnemucca, Nevada 89445

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Contact: Nicole Maher, PIO

Humboldt County Health Board

Phone: (775) 761-2624

Email: nicole.maher@humboldtcountynv.gov

VOLUNTEERS TO VISIT LOCAL BUSINESSES AS PART OF CONTINUING EDUCATION PROGRAM

WINNEMUCCA, Nev.—County and city volunteers have begun visiting local businesses in an effort to continue to educate owners and staff about their ongoing role in the fight against COVID-19.

The Humboldt County Health Board launched the Business Educators Program in April 2020 to provide guidance to local enterprise on how to help fight the virus—and not inadvertently promote its spread.

Humboldt County Manager Dave Mendiola said the program has re-launched in the new year to help keep businesses in the loop as the fight against the coronavirus progresses.

"The state is encouraging us to continue to make regular contact," said Mendiola, "to ensure we are sharing correct information, news about upcoming vaccinations, and access to the PPE businesses might need."

Mendiola said the county has a large supply of personal protective equipment, including facial masks and hand sanitizer, for use by business staff and customers alike. Businesses should call the Humboldt County Comptroller's office at (775) 623-6467 to request supplies.

"We have seen a great response from our businesses over the past months," said Mendiola. "I know those efforts will continue as we all work together to ensure local commerce can remain open."

Mendiola said volunteers from both Humboldt County and the City of Winnemucca will visit between 10 and 20 businesses each week as part of an effort to connect with all storefronts and service providers over the coming months.

Volunteers will observe conditions generally, coordinate with businesses regarding their current precautionary measures, and answer any questions.

"Their goal is to basically offer any needed encouragement and help," said Mendiola of the volunteers.

"This isn't about trying to catch people doing something wrong; it's about helping our business owners and managers know what to do that's right—what to do to protect their staff and the community."

Local businesses will be receiving a letter from the Humboldt County Health Board announcing the reinstatement of the Business Educators Program. The letter will include a checklist of best practices for mitigating the spread of the virus.

"Local business plays a vital role in this county's economy," said Mendiola, "so we want to ensure we are not doing anything to jeopardize our businesses staying open."

Mendiola added, "We're also concerned about the health and well-being of owners, staff and customers," he said. "Our volunteers can share excellent information that will help ensure maximum protection."

The county has established an email address, <u>Covid19@humboldtcountynv.gov</u>, where businesses and residents can share suggestions, ask questions or address concerns.

Businesses who have questions about COVID-19 vaccination opportunities for their staff members may call the county's COVID-19 vaccine recorded information line at (775) 375-3200. The line is updated with new information every Monday and Thursday, or as needed, so businesses are encouraged to call frequently to stay up to date.

To request PPE supplies from the Humboldt County Comptroller's office, businesses should call (775) 623-6467.

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