Humboldt County Health Board

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

CITY WASTEWATER MIRRORS DECLINING COVID ACTIVITY; HUMBOLDT REPORTS SIX NEW CASES

WINNEMUCCA, Nev.—Concentrations of SARS-CoV-2 in the City of Winnemucca's wastewater are mirroring what officials are already seeing: case numbers are dropping significantly in Humboldt County.

Last year, the City of Winnemucca launched an early detection system for COVID-19 that relies on wastewater from homes and businesses to help identify disease clusters before they spread.

Researchers have found that spikes in the concentration of RNA (ribonucleic acid) in the wastewater can be detected approximately five days before officials will see a spike in testing and positive case numbers.

City Manager Alicia Heiser said the City of Winnemucca retrieves five wastewater samples per week. One is a global sample taken at the headworks of the wastewater treatment plant; the other four are taken at specific manholes, which represent collection points for four separate areas of the city.

Over the past seven months, City Manager Heiser has tracked the city's weekly results, ranging from an all-time high in RNA concentrations the week of November 3 to one of the week's lowest concentrations on February 9—the most recent results to return.

According to Humboldt County Health Officer Charles Stringham, the data definitely supports a downward trend in COVID-19 infections.

"We have watched with fascination over the past months as our wastewater sample results have been played out about a week later with matching results in our case numbers," said Dr. Stringham. "To see these RNA viral levels so low is very good news and tells me that good things are happening."

Dr. Stringham added, "Let's continue to do the right things to help this downward trend continue."

Humboldt County has been notified of six more positive cases of COVID-19, raising the overall total to 1060. In all, the county has 1027 recovered cases and 20 active cases. One COVID-19 patient is currently hospitalized locally with both COVID and influenza and 13 county residents have died.

Pamela Johnson DNP, MSN-APRN, FNP-BC, with the Fort McDermitt Wellness Center, is reporting 210

total cases, 207 recovered cases, three active cases and one death. The center has completed 3,118 tests. Fort McDermitt has chosen to report separately from Humboldt County.

Based on available information, close contacts of the newest Humboldt County cases are being 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
1060	Woman	20s	Investigation in progress	Self-isolating
1059	Man	40s	Investigation in progress	Self-isolating
1058	Female	Child	Investigation in progress	Self-isolating
1057	Man	60s	Investigation in progress	Self-isolating
1056	Woman	30s	Investigation in progress	Self-isolating
1055	Male	Teen	Investigation in progress	Self-isolating

To prevent the spread of COVID-19 in Humboldt County:

- Wear a mask around anyone not of the same household.
- Maintain 6 feet of distance from non-household members 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.
- Self-isolate following a known exposure, or while waiting for COVID-19 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 8 p.m. Monday through Wednesday (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 serving Nevada Gold Mines 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, at www.hcnv.us and at The Humboldt County Report.

Humboldt County has established a COVID-19 vaccine recorded information line in both English and Spanish. Call (775) 375-3200 to hear the latest about vaccine allocations, local distribution opportunities

and changes as they occur. The line is updated with new information every Monday and Thursday (not including holidays), or as needed.

Humboldt County has a supply of personal protective equipment, including facial masks and hand sanitizer, available to local businesses. To request supplies, businesses should call the Humboldt County Comptroller's office at (775) 623-6467.

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