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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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## **STATEWIDE CASES CONTINUE TO RISE AMID DELTA CONCERN; COUNTY REPORTS THREE NEW CASES**

WINNEMUCCA, Nev. — Since June 1 when Nevada lifted all COVID-19 health and safety restrictions, including capacity limits, social distancing requirements and mask-wearing for fully vaccinated people, cases have increased.

As of Thursday, an average of 331 new COVID-19 cases had been reported each day over the last seven days. That's more than double the recent low of 142 on May 31.

Officials attribute much of the increase to Nevada's slowing vaccination rates; the Silver State ranks 33<sup>rd</sup> out of 50 states, with 40.87 percent of its population fully vaccinated. That compares to a high of 64.59 percent in Vermont and a low of 29.19 percent in Mississippi.

Lagging vaccination numbers are of particular concern right now since data from the Nevada State Public Health Lab is showing a marked increase statewide in the presence of the delta variant. To date, the variant has been responsible for 21 percent of all cases in Washoe County and 19 percent in Clark County. That's up from 14 percent of all cases at the beginning of the month.

A two-dose course of the COVID-19 vaccine appears to be very effective against the delta variant. In Washoe County, for instance, 24 percent of delta variant-confirmed infections were hospitalized—three in the intensive care unit—and none had received the COVID-19 vaccine; additionally, all were under the age of 60.

"This is both very good news and very concerning news," said Humboldt County Health Officer Charles Stringham, MD. "On the one hand, vaccines seem to be keeping the delta variant in check, so I feel optimistic about those who have been fully vaccinated."

"On the other hand," continued the doctor, "This variant spreads more easily and causes more severe illness and death, so that is very concerning news for those who are not yet vaccinated."

Dr. Stringham added that infectious diseases that are allowed to replicate in a community due to lack of vaccination can produce even more worrisome variants. "Vaccination will not only protect your health but will limit this virus's potential to evolve—it will end the future of this virus," he said.

Current vaccination opportunities are available at the local Walmart and Ridley's Pharmacies as well as the Office of the Community Health Nurse.

Humboldt County has been notified of three more positive cases of COVID-19, raising the overall cumulative total to 1219. In all, the county has 1197 recovered cases and eight active cases. One COVID-19 patient is currently hospitalized locally and 14 county residents have died.

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
1217	Female	Child	Investigation in progress	Self-isolating
1218	Woman	50s	Investigation in progress	Self-isolating
1219	Male	Teen	Investigation in progress	Self-isolating

The following vaccination opportunities are available to Humboldt County residents:

- **Ridley's Pharmacy** is offering the Moderna and Johnson & Johnson vaccines to all individuals age 18 and older. Visit [app.acuityscheduling.com/schedule.php?owner=22007397](http://app.acuityscheduling.com/schedule.php?owner=22007397) and follow the prompts to schedule the vaccine at the Winnemucca store.
- **The Walmart Pharmacy** in Winnemucca is offering COVID-19 vaccines to all individuals age 12 and older. Vaccine type depends on age and availability. Visit [Walmart.com/COVIDvaccine](http://Walmart.com/COVIDvaccine) and follow the prompts to view available appointments.
- **The Community Health Nurse** is offering vaccination appointments to all individuals age 12 and older. Vaccine type depends on age and availability. Please call (775) 623-6575 to schedule.

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](http://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 Friday (not including holidays), or as needed. Information is also available by emailing [vaccine@humboldtcountynv.gov](mailto:vaccine@humboldtcountynv.gov).

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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