

# Humboldt County Health Board

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



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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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## **HUMBOLDT CLASSIFIED AS HIGH RISK; OFFICIALS TO DISCUSS STATE MASK MANDATE**

WINNEMUCCA, Nev.— Tuesday, August 10, Humboldt County was flagged by the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention for having a high COVID-19 transmission risk level.

In accordance with updated State of Nevada guidance, if Humboldt maintains its substantial or high-risk level for another week, it will fall under the CDC's more stringent masking requirements beginning Friday, August 20.

The Humboldt County Board of Health is expected to discuss and possibly vote on Humboldt County's position with regard to any future state mask requirements at their next meeting, which will take place at 8:30 a.m. Monday, August 23, at the start of the Humboldt County Commission meeting.

Humboldt County Manager Dave Mendiola said officials are not at odds with COVID precautions, but instead want local residents to decide what is best for themselves and their families with regard to mask wearing.

"Even during an emergency, our officials continue to adhere to the core principles of less government intervention and more personal responsibility," said Mendiola.

Mendiola said officials also are concerned that the county—and the state—have no legal authority to mandate masks.

Even so, Mendiola said business and other private organizations may adopt practices that are more stringent than those recommended by the commission.

The Humboldt County School District has mandated masks for all staff, coaches, volunteers and visitors, although masks will not be required for students. District officials continue to advocate for youth ages 12 to 18 to get vaccinated.

Nevada reinstated its indoor masking mandate on July 30. Since then, the state has had the second slowest COVID growth in the nation over the past two weeks at 21 percent, which is more than four times lower than the national average of 112 percent as of August 9.

In all, 13 of Nevada's 17 counties are currently deemed as having substantial or high transmission. Humboldt County has been considered at moderate risk until this week when case and test positivity rates hit new levels.

Between August 1 and August 12, Humboldt County has confirmed 50 cases of the virus compared to 33 cases for the entire month of July. Last year, in August 2020, the county confirmed 15 total cases.

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.

Humboldt County has also 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@humboldtcountynev.gov](mailto:vaccine@humboldtcountynev.gov).

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