



August 13, 2021

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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

## **DELTA VARIANT MORE INFECTIOUS THAN ORIGINAL COVID; HUMBOLDT REPORTS 30 NEW CASES**

WINNEMUCCA, Nev. — The delta variant of the coronavirus is one of the most contagious respiratory viruses known.

In fact, scientists say the variant's transmissibility is more than double the original strain, allowing it to spread much more effectively.

When scientists measure a virus's transmissibility, they often use what's known as "Ro," which represents the number of people a sick person will infect when the entire population is vulnerable to the virus.

For example, influenza has an Ro of about two, meaning that each person infected with flu passes the virus on to two people on average. Some people will infect more than two people and some will infect fewer. But over time the average will be about two. Chickenpox, on the other hand, has an Ro of about nine or 10.

For SARS-CoV-2, the Ro has actually risen over the course of the pandemic as the virus has evolved. When coronavirus first emerged in 2019, COVID-19 was slightly more contagious than the flu—with an Ro between two and three.

Then, about a year later, the virus began to mutate quickly. The alpha variant, which emerged in the UK, was more transmissible than the original strain. Then came the delta, which originated in India, with an Ro of seven.

"In a nutshell," said Humboldt County Health Officer Charles Stringham, MD, "the delta variant of coronavirus is two to three times as contagious as the original version we saw one year ago."

Dr. Stringham said the difference between an Ro of three (the original virus) and seven (the delta variant) is substantial. For example, after three rounds of infection from the original virus, cases could rise by 27 ( $3 \times 3 \times 3 = 27$ ). However, with the delta variant, three rounds of infection could result in 343 confirmed cases ( $7 \times 7 \times 7 = 343$ ).

“The message we all need to take from this is that this variant is highly infectious,” he said. “Anyone who chooses not to get vaccinated is placing themselves, their families and associates at high risk of getting infected by the delta variant.”

Humboldt County has been notified of 30 more positive cases of COVID-19, raising the overall cumulative total to 1306. In all, the county has 1245 recovered and 47 active cases. One local person was hospitalized and released during the week; no COVID-19 patients remain hospitalized. In all, 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
1306	Man	20s	Under investigation	Self-isolating
1305	Woman	30s	Under investigation	Self-isolating
1304	Woman	30s	Under investigation	Self-isolating
1303	Man	30s	Under investigation	Self-isolating
1302	Male	Child	Under investigation	Self-isolating
1301	Female	Teen	Under investigation	Self-isolating
1300	Male	Child	Under investigation	Self-isolating
1299	Woman	30s	Under investigation	Self-isolating
1298	Man	30s	Under investigation	Self-isolating
1297	Woman	30s	Under investigation	Self-isolating
1296	Woman	70s	Under investigation	Self-isolating
1295	Woman	30s	Under investigation	Self-isolating
1294	Man	30s	Under investigation	Self-isolating
1293	Man	40s	Under investigation	Self-isolating
1292	Man	80s	Under investigation	Self-isolating
1291	Woman	40s	Under investigation	Self-isolating
1290	Woman	70s	Under investigation	Self-isolating
1289	Man	30s	Under investigation	Self-isolating
1288	Woman	30s	Under investigation	Self-isolating
1287	Woman	30s	Under investigation	Self-isolating
1286	Man	40s	Under investigation	Self-isolating
1285	Man	40s	Under investigation	Self-isolating
1284	Female	Teen	Under investigation	Self-isolating
1283	Woman	50s	Under investigation	Self-isolating
1282	Man	50s	Under investigation	Self-isolating
1281	Man	50s	Under investigation	Self-isolating
1280	Woman	70s	Under investigation	*Past Hospitalization
1279	Woman	80s	Under investigation	Self-isolating
1278	Man	70s	Under investigation	Self-isolating
1277	Man	40s	Under investigation	Self-isolating

\*Past hospitalization means the person was hospitalized sometime during the past week (since the previous reporting period) but has since been released and is 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.
- **Humboldt County Community Health** will provide the second dose of the Pfizer vaccine on Thursday, September 2, to youth, ages 12 to 18, who participated in the August 12 "[Back to School](#)" [Immunization Clinic](#).

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.

###