



August 20, 2021

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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SMALL GATHERINGS CONTRIBUTING TO COVID SPREAD; HUMBOLDT REPORTS 40 NEW CASES

WINNEMUCCA, Nev. — This week, the State of Nevada released updated information in support of safer larger gatherings.

[Emergency Directive 049](#) creates an exception to the mask requirement for eligible events in counties with “substantial” or “high” transmission rates if all attendees are vaccinated.

The updated guidance is just one example of the many discussions and efforts to limit formal gatherings’ potential as a breeding ground for the coronavirus, but Humboldt County Health Officer Charles Stringham, MD, said locally, it’s actually informal social gatherings that cause him the most concern.

“Small gatherings are often informal, intimate, and involve people we trust,” he said, “and that makes them dangerous.”

Dr. Stringham said while guidance suggests that people wear masks in public settings, “we don’t view being with family and friends as a truly public setting, and so our risk increases greatly.”

Dr. Stringham said many recent cases in Humboldt County can be tied to small gatherings of families and friends—and in some instances, the consequences have been dire.

“We don’t traditionally see birthdays or weddings as risky situations,” he said, “but for now, we need to redefine how we view what constitutes risk. We can still gather, but we need to be smart. Just because we love someone doesn’t mean they can’t infect us with the virus, or vice versa.”

In other news:

- Tuesday, August 17, Humboldt County was flagged for the second week for having a high transmission rate. According to state officials, the CDC’s more stringent masking requirements go into effect Friday, August 20. In all, 14 of the state’s 17 counties are currently deemed as having substantial or high transmission.
- People who are immunocompromised can now receive a third dose of the Pfizer or Moderna vaccines. Local health officials are awaiting the green light from state officials to begin that process.

- Humboldt County Community Health has announced the annual [Drive-Thru Flu POD](#) for 4 p.m. to 8 p.m. Wednesday, September 29.

Humboldt County has been notified of 40 more positive cases of COVID-19, and one case was removed from the county, raising the overall cumulative total to 1345. In all, the county has 1270 recovered and 61 active cases. One local person was hospitalized and released during the week; two other 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
1345	Man	40s	Under investigation	*Past Hospitalization
1344	Man	40s	Under investigation	Self-isolating
1343	Woman	40s	Under investigation	Self-isolating
1342	Woman	40s	Under investigation	Self-isolating
1341	Man	40s	Under investigation	Self-isolating
1340	Female	Child	Under investigation	Self-isolating
1339	Man	30s	Under investigation	Hospitalized
1338	Woman	40s	Under investigation	Self-isolating
1337	Woman	20s	Under investigation	Self-isolating
1336	Male	Child	Under investigation	Self-isolating
1335	Female	Teen	Under investigation	Self-isolating
1334	Man	50s	Under investigation	Self-isolating
1333	Male	Teen	Under investigation	Self-isolating
1332	Female	Child	Under investigation	Self-isolating
1331	Woman	60s	Under investigation	Self-isolating
1330	Woman	20s	Under investigation	Self-isolating
1329	Woman	20s	Under investigation	Self-isolating
1328	Woman	20s	Under investigation	Self-isolating
1327	Female	Teen	Under investigation	Self-isolating
1326	Female	Teen	Under investigation	Self-isolating
1325	Man	30s	Under investigation	Self-isolating
1324	Man	50s	Under investigation	Self-isolating
1323	Man	20s	Under investigation	Self-isolating
1322	Woman	50s	Under investigation	Self-isolating
1321	Man	50s	Under investigation	Self-isolating
1320	Female	Child	Under investigation	Self-isolating
1319	Woman	20s	Under investigation	Self-isolating
1318	Man	70s	Under investigation	Self-isolating
1317	Woman	60s	Under investigation	Self-isolating
1316	Female	Child	Under investigation	Self-isolating
1315	Male	Child	Under investigation	Self-isolating
1314	Man	40s	Under investigation	Self-isolating

1313	Woman	40s	Under investigation	Self-isolating
1312	Female	Child	Under investigation	Self-isolating
1311	Female	Child	Under investigation	Self-isolating
1310	Male	Child	Under investigation	Self-isolating
1309	Male	Child	Under investigation	Self-isolating
1308	Male	Teen	Under investigation	Self-isolating
1307	Man	30s	Under investigation	Self-isolating
1306	Man	60s	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 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 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 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.

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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