

Chair & County Health Officer,

Dr. Charles Stringham

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Ron Cerri, County Commissioner

Mike Bell, County Commissioner

Mike Allen, Humboldt County Sheriff

Humboldt County Health Board

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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NEWEST COVID-19 CASE RAISES HUMBOLDT COUNTY TOTAL TO 90

WINNEMUCCA, Nev.— Humboldt County has been notified of one more positive case of coronavirus disease 2019 (COVID-19), bringing the county's total to 90.

In all, Humboldt General Hospital has completed 1,217 tests; 40 results are pending.

Eighty-one of the cases were identified through Humboldt General Hospital, one was identified through community-based screening, and eight were confirmed out of area.

Based on available information, close contacts of the newest case are being identified or have been notified and are following self-isolation procedures to prevent community spread of the virus.

Brief summary information follows:

- Case 90 – A male in his 40s, who is a close contact of a previously reported case. He is self-isolating at home.

Of the previous 89 cases, 76 have recovered, nine are self-isolating and four have died; Humboldt County has 10 active cases.

Humboldt County Health Officer Charles Stringham, MD, said as the State of Nevada continues to respond to the challenges of the COVID-19 pandemic, health districts joined together this week to encourage businesses to protect the health of their customers, staff and community through voluntary tobacco-free policies.

“Evidence shows that smokers are at increased risk of contracting COVID-19 and experiencing complications from the virus,” said Dr. Stringham.

Not only that, but Dr. Stringham said it's difficult for businesses to adequately reinforce the wearing of face coverings while also allowing smoking.

“This virus primarily transmits through person-to-person spread of respiratory droplets,” he said. “As people remove face coverings to smoke or vape, they are exhaling respiratory droplets over a longer distance. The act itself requires individuals to more frequently touch their face and mouths—another

direct contradiction to recommended COVID-19 prevention strategies.”

Dr. Stringham said handwashing recommendations also become ineffective for people who are repeatedly touching their mouths and faces and then contaminating high-touch surfaces in public places.

Local residents who wish to quit using tobacco products, including vaping products, can call the Nevada Tobacco Quitline at 1-800-QUIT-NOW (1-800-784-8669) from a Nevada area code. Resources are also available at the [Centers for Disease Control and Prevention](#).

To help fight COVID-19, please:

- Stay home to limit exposure, and wear a mask if going out in public is necessary.
- Maintain 6 feet of distance from other people 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.
- Avoid visiting sick people or those who are self-isolating.
- Avoid touching eyes, nose, and mouth.
- Cover coughs and sneezes with a tissue, and throw the tissue in the trash.
- Clean and disinfect frequently touched objects and surfaces.
- 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](#).

Free cloth masks are available to community members at the Olsen’s and Ridley’s pharmacies, courtesy of the Mucca Mask Makers, or by messaging the group on Facebook @Mucca Mask Makers.

Local COVID-19 information is available in Spanish @CovidEspanol. Humboldt County COVID-19 updates and information are available in English at @HumboldtCountyNV and @StopHumboldtCoronavirus.

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