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Dr. Charles Stringham

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Mike Bell, County Commissioner

Mike Allen, Humboldt County Sheriff

Humboldt County Health Board

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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HUMBOLDT COUNTY REPORTS 175 TOTAL CONFIRMATIONS, 25 ACTIVE CASES

WINNEMUCCA, Nev.— Humboldt County has been notified of two more positive cases of coronavirus disease 2019 (COVID-19), raising the county's total to 175.

Overall, 140 of Humboldt County's cases were identified through Humboldt General Hospital, one was identified through community-based screening, eight were identified through the Golden Valley Medical Center, 10 were identified through testing at the Ridley's Pharmacy, and 16 were confirmed out of area.

In addition, the Office of the Humboldt County Community Health Nurse has completed 60 tests, with 58 negative and two results pending. Any positives through the Community Health Nurse are reported as part of Humboldt County's total number of cases.

The Fort McDermitt Paiute Shoshone Tribe is reporting 108 total cases; 91 were confirmed through the Fort McDermitt Wellness Center, eight were tested out of area, while eight were tested through the National Guard community-based testing on July 26. In all, Fort McDermitt has completed 1,257 tests, 102 people have recovered, one person has died, and the tribe has five active cases.

Based on available information, close contacts of the newest Humboldt County cases are being identified or have been 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 175 – A man in his 60s, whose case remains under investigation. He is self-isolating at home.
- Case 174 – A man in his 60s, whose case remains under investigation. He is hospitalized.

Of the previous 173 cases, 146 have recovered, 19 are self-isolating, four are hospitalized, and four have died; Humboldt County has 25 active cases.

Earlier this week, the U.S. passed 227,000 COVID-19 deaths since the spring; that's more than the total number of influenza deaths from the past five flu seasons combined.

Still, controversies rage across the country as to whether COVID-19 is dangerous enough to warrant mask-wearing and social distancing, let alone restrictions on business, education and travel.

Humboldt County Health Officer Charles Stringham, MD, said one reason COVID-19 is dangerous is because it's never been seen in humans, so absolutely no one is immune to it. Not only that, but the virus spreads easily from person to person, attacking the respiratory system in a seeming attempt to interrupt the simple act of breathing.

The doctor said what makes COVID-19 even more dangerous, however, is that it's such an unknown.

"Scientists have studied seasonal flu for decades, so we know a lot about flu viruses and what to expect each season," said Dr. Stringham.

"In contrast, very little is known about the new coronavirus and the disease it causes. This means COVID-19 is something of a wild card in terms of how far it will spread and how many deaths it will cause. And to date, there is no specific medicine recommended to prevent or treat this type of coronavirus."

While Dr. Stringham said arguments will likely continue to rage regarding the disease's danger, he hopes local residents will do everything they can to mitigate the virus.

"Any disease that results in widespread death and long-term illness is worth our greatest abatement efforts," said Dr. Stringham. "As families, neighbors and communities, I hope we will do everything in our power to help ourselves and others stay safe."

To prevent the spread of COVID-19 in Humboldt County:

- Stay home to limit exposure, and wear a facial covering 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.
- Self-isolate if they have had a known exposure, or if they are awaiting COVID-19 test results.
- 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](#).

The Humboldt General Hospital Screening Clinic has moved to the HGH West Campus, located at 51 E. Haskell Street. From 8 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. Monday through Friday, the clinic offers drive-thru screening for asymptomatic and symptomatic persons. Those who are experiencing severe COVID-like symptoms should go directly to the HGH Emergency Department.

The Office of the Humboldt County Community Health Nurse also is offering testing to asymptomatic persons with no known exposure. For more information or to make an appointment, residents may call the clinic at (775) 623-6575.

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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