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Humboldt County Health Board

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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HUMBOLDT COUNTY REPORTS 258 TOTAL CONFIRMATIONS, 56 ACTIVE CASES

WINNEMUCCA, Nev.— Humboldt County has been notified of 14 more positive cases of coronavirus disease 2019 (COVID-19), raising the county's total to 258.

Overall, 203 of Humboldt County's cases were identified through Humboldt General Hospital, one was identified through community-based screening, 15 were identified through the Golden Valley Medical Center, 20 were identified through testing at the Ridley's Pharmacy, and 19 were confirmed out of area.

In addition, the Office of the Humboldt County Community Health Nurse has completed 65 tests. 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 136 positive cases; 120 were confirmed through the Fort McDermitt Wellness Center, eight were tested out of area, and eight were tested through the National Guard community-based testing on July 26. In all, Fort McDermitt has completed 2,044 tests, 115 people have recovered, one person has died, and the tribe has 20 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 258 – A woman in her 50s, whose case remains under investigation. She is self-isolating at home.
- Case 257 – A man in his 40s, who had contact with a previously reported case. He is self-isolating at home.
- Case 256 – A woman in her 60s, whose case remains under investigation. She is self-isolating at home.
- Case 255 – A man in his 20s, who had contact with a previously reported case. He is self-isolating at home.
- Case 254 – A man in his 50s, whose case remains under investigation. He is self-isolating at home.

- Case 253 – A woman in her 40s, whose case remains under investigation. She is self-isolating at home.
- Case 252 – A male teen, whose case remains under investigation. He is self-isolating at home.
- Case 251 – A woman in her 20s, whose case remains under investigation. She is self-isolating at home.
- Case 250 – A man in his 50s, whose case remains under investigation. He is self-isolating at home.
- Case 249 - A woman in her 20s, whose case remains under investigation. She is self-isolating at home.
- Case 248 – A woman in her 20s, whose case remains under investigation. She is self-isolating at home.
- Case 247 – A woman in her 20s, whose case remains under investigation. She is self-isolating at home.
- Case 246 – A man in his 50s, whose case remains under investigation. He is self-isolating at home.
- Case 245 – A woman in her 30s, whose case remains under investigation. She is self-isolating at home.

Of the previous 244 cases, 198 have recovered, 36 are self-isolating, six are hospitalized, and four have died; Humboldt County has 56 active cases.

The City of Winnemucca continues to test wastewater from homes and businesses to help identify COVID-19 disease clusters before they spread. November 10, the manhole near Lowry High School showed high concentrations of SARS-CoV-2, the virus that causes COVID-19.

Humboldt County Health Officer Charles Stringham, MD, said while someone with COVID-19 might not show symptoms for several days, people have been shown to shed virus RNA seven to 10 days before identifying the virus.

The City of Winnemucca retrieves five wastewater samples each week: one from the headworks at the wastewater treatment plant and four from specific manhole areas within the city.

Beginning in August, results initially came back below the detectable limit of 2.6 RNA copies per mL of wastewater. This past week, for the first time, Dr. Stringham said results showed concentrations at all manholes—with a significant spike in COVID-19 concentrations near the high school.

“The City of Winnemucca cannot determine exactly how many people in the identified areas may be affected,” he said, “but the data definitely supports an upward trend in COVID-19 infections.”

Residents who live within the Lowry High School manhole area have been notified by mail this week of the possible upward trend in their vicinity; the communication encourages them to be tested at the first sign of symptoms.

“We don’t want people to be alarmed if they receive a notice about an increased trend in their neighborhood,” said Dr. Stringham. “Instead we want them to use that information to stay alert and to be prepared.”

Dr. Stringham added, “If you believe you may be experiencing COVID-like symptoms, please be tested as soon as possible.”

The doctor said early testing not only helps local health officials quickly identify cases and mitigate the virus's spread, but it also helps ensure that those affected by the virus have the appropriate supports to weather the illness.

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 5 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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