

Chair & County Health Officer,

Dr. Charles Stringham

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Mike Bell, County Commissioner

Mike Allen, Humboldt County Sheriff

Humboldt County Health Board

Humboldt County Courthouse
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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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HUMBOLDT COUNTY REPORTS 554 TOTAL CONFIRMATIONS, 275 ACTIVE CASES

WINNEMUCCA, Nev. — Humboldt County has been notified of 34 more positive cases of coronavirus disease 2019 (COVID-19), raising the county’s total to 554.

The Fort McDermitt Paiute Shoshone Tribe is reporting five additional cases, raising their overall total to 149 positive cases. In all, Fort McDermitt has completed 2,350 tests, 140 people have recovered, one person has died, and the tribe has eight 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 #	Gender	Age Range	Contact	Status
554	Woman	60s	Investigation in progress	Self-isolating
553	Female	Child	Investigation in progress	Self-isolating
552	Man	50s	Investigation in progress	Self-isolating
551	Woman	50s	Investigation in progress	Self-isolating
550	Man	30s	Investigation in progress	Self-isolating
549	Man	50s	Investigation in progress	Self-isolating
548	Woman	50s	Investigation in progress	Self-isolating
547	Man	50s	Investigation in progress	Self-isolating
546	Man	30s	Investigation in progress	Self-isolating
545	Man	30s	Investigation in progress	Self-isolating
544	Man	30s	Investigation in progress	Self-isolating
543	Male	Teen	Investigation in progress	Self-isolating
542	Woman	20s	Investigation in progress	Self-isolating
541	Man	70s	Investigation in progress	Self-isolating
540	Man	50s	Investigation in progress	Self-isolating
539	Man	60s	Investigation in progress	Self-isolating
538	Man	50s	Investigation in progress	Self-isolating
537	Man	70s	Investigation in progress	Hospitalized

Case #	Gender	Age Range	Contact	Status
536	Man	20s	Investigation in progress	Self-isolating
535	Man	40s	Investigation in progress	Self-isolating
534	Man	40s	Investigation in progress	Self-isolating
533	Man	30s	Investigation in progress	Self-isolating
532	Male	Teen	Investigation in progress	Self-isolating
531	Woman	30s	Investigation in progress	Self-isolating
530	Man	50s	Investigation in progress	Self-isolating
529	Man	50s	Investigation in progress	Self-isolating
528	Man	40s	Investigation in progress	Self-isolating
527	Man	30s	Investigation in progress	Self-isolating
526	Man	50s	Investigation in progress	Self-isolating
525	Woman	50s	Investigation in progress	Self-isolating
524	Man	20s	Investigation in progress	Self-isolating
523	Man	60s	Investigation in progress	Self-isolating
522	Woman	20s	Investigation in progress	Self-isolating
521	Woman	40s	Investigation in progress	Self-isolating

Of the previous 520 cases, 273 have recovered, 236 are self-isolating, five are hospitalized locally, and six have died; Humboldt County has 275 active cases.

Many local residents have reached out recently, curious to know the reasons behind the latest rise in cases in Humboldt County.

While cases stemming from the Thanksgiving holiday may begin manifesting later this week, Humboldt County Health Officer Charles Stringham, MD, says many recent infections have come from small gatherings.

“What I am referring to are not necessarily parties or celebrations,” said Dr. Stringham, “but rather visiting with a friend, chatting with a co-worker, or dropping by a sibling’s house who lives across town.”

Dr. Stringham said in many of these instances, people do not wear masks or socially distance because their friend, co-worker or family member does not “look” like COVID-19.

“In our imaginings, COVID-19 doesn’t look like someone we care about: it’s a stranger, an outsider—someone we don’t know,” he said.

The doctor said something else also is at play: People tend to be embarrassed or self-conscious about donning a mask or making distance between themselves and their friends, co-workers and family members.

“Perhaps we think that taking these precautions around each other will appear ridiculous or unnecessary; perhaps we want to send the message that we are so trusting of each other that we don’t have to worry about precautions,” he said.

But that thinking makes no sense, said the doctor.

“COVID is in our community; it is spreading quickly, and we shouldn’t be trying to show our trust by NOT wearing a mask and social distancing; we should be showing our deep and loving trust by wearing a mask, social distancing, and protecting those we care about at all costs.”

Dr. Stringham added, “I think if we can overcome our awkwardness and discomfort and choose to do the right things—especially around those who are familiar to us but not of our household—we will see our case numbers go down significantly.”

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](#).

COVID-19 testing locations in Humboldt County include:

- **Humboldt General Hospital Screening Clinic** - Offers drive-thru screening for asymptomatic persons from 8 a.m. to 5 p.m. seven days a week (closed from noon to 1 p.m. for lunch), and by-appointment screening with a provider for symptomatic persons from 8 a.m. to 5 p.m. Monday through Friday (closed from noon to 1 p.m. for lunch; call 775-623-5222, ext. 1379 to schedule an appointment). Located at 51 E. Haskell Street, across from Humboldt General Hospital.
- **Golden Valley Medical Center** - Private clinic owned by Nevada Gold offers screening for asymptomatic and symptomatic persons. Call (775) 625-4653 for an appointment.
- **Ridley's Pharmacy** - Offers in-vehicle, self-administered asymptomatic and symptomatic testing. Go [here](#) and follow the prompts to schedule an appointment.
- **HGH Emergency Department** - Those who experience severe COVID-like symptoms should go directly to the HGH Emergency Department, which is open 24 hours a day, or call 9-1-1 for emergency assistance.

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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