**COUNTY OF HUMBOLDT
JOINT INFORMATION CENTER**
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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
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20 New Cases Reported Today;
More Than 40 Cases of B.1.1.7 Variant Identified in County

A total of 3,935 Humboldt County residents have tested positive for COVID-19 after 20 news cases were reported today.

Two previously reported hospitalizations have been removed from the county's count. While both were positive for COVID-19, the reason they were admitted to the hospital was unrelated to the virus.

Genomic sequencing of local COVID-19-positive samples has identified more than 40 total cases of the B.1.1.7 variant, now the most dominant strain of the virus in the state and nation. This variant is associated with a 50% increase in transmission and can lead to more severe illness as well as hospitalizations and deaths in unvaccinated individuals.

Public Health officials say the B.1.1.7 variant was present in a majority of sequenced samples, indicating that it is widespread locally. The community will be notified if additional variants of concern are detected in the county. Health officials pointed out that all approved vaccines are highly effective against COVID-19 variants and encouraged county residents to get vaccinated as soon as possible.

More than 2,600 second doses of COVID-19 vaccine are expected to be administered at Public Health's mass-vaccination clinics scheduled today through Sunday. County residents in need of a first- or second-dose of vaccine who aren't already scheduled for an appointment can sign up through a local pharmacy. Go to vaccines.gov to check availability at all participating local pharmacies.

View the Humboldt County Data Dashboard online at humboldtgov.org/dashboard, or go to humboldtgov.org/DashboardArchives to download today's data.

For the most recent COVID-19 information, visit cdc.gov or cdph.ca.gov. Local information is available at humboldtgov.org or by contacting covidinfo@co.humboldt.ca.us or calling 707-441-5000.

Sign up for COVID-19 vaccination: MyTurn.ca.gov
Check for vaccine availability at a local pharmacy: Vaccines.gov

Local COVID-19 vaccine information: humboldtgov.org/VaccineInfo
Humboldt County COVID-19 Data Dashboard: humboldtgov.org/Dashboard
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