NEWS ALERTS AND UPDATES – April 21, 2020

NATIONAL:

- Total cases: 776,093 (+29,468) (3,396 probable)
- Total deaths: 41,758 (+2,675) (5,352 probable)

**Total jurisdictions includes 50 states, District of Columbia, Guam, the Northern Mariana Islands, Puerto Rico, and the U.S Virgin Islands.

STATE:

As of April 21:

- 33,261 positive cases (+2,283)
- 1,268 deaths (+60)

Approximately 300,100 tests have been conducted. At least 251,614 results have been received and 7,200 are pending. California Health and Human Services Agency is releasing this information as an open dataset. This includes dashboards for hospital data and statewide case statistics.
GOVERNOR NEWSOM UPDATES:

Daily Press Conference: Governor Gavin Newsom provides and update to the State’s response to COVID-19. Watch here

Governor Gavin Newsom Launches #CaliforniansForAll Service Initiative Full PR

Governor Newsom Announces Appointment 4.21.20 Full PR
LOCAL:

There were no additional positive cases of COVID-19 confirmed Tuesday. The total case count remains at 52 with 50 of those cases recovered.

Humboldt County Health Officer Dr. Teresa Frankovich said this slow period affords community residents time to continue to get ready for the next phase. “With continued social distancing and mandatory facial covering, we can keep our community safe and prepare for what may lie ahead.”

The following information is based on the most recent data available for all confirmed cases:

- Contact to a Known Case: 23
- Travel-Acquired: 20
- Community Transmission: 9
- Under Investigation: 0

Daily COVID-19 case report for April 21

- Total number of positive cases: 52
- Total number of hospitalizations: 3
- Total number of recovered cases: 50
- Total number of people tested by Public Health Laboratory: 1,097

Total number of people tested by all other sources: 656
(Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, California Department of Public Health and commercial labs)

The Public Health Laboratory currently has a capacity of approximately 800 tests and can process about 60 samples a day with an approximate turnaround time of 48 to 72 hours.As of Friday, April 17, a total of 1,614 county residents have been tested since the outbreak began. Humboldt County’s testing rate of 1,137 per 100,000 residents exceeds the estimated state rate of 666 per 100,000 and the national rate of 1,075 per 100,000 people. The rate of confirmed cases in the county stands at 38 per 100,000 residents, with the state rate nearly double that at an estimated 72 cases per 100,000. The estimated U.S. rate is 209 confirmed cases per 100,000 people.
Approximately 83% of cases are located in or around Eureka, Arcata, McKinleyville and Fortuna

- Males: 48%
- Females: 52%
- Mean age: 45

April 21, 2020 - Facial Coverings to Become Mandatory Starting Friday

The Humboldt County Health Officer has issued a Health Order requiring the use of facial coverings to further manage the spread of COVID-19. The order will be in effect starting at 12:01 a.m. Friday, April 24, and until it is modified or rescinded by the Health Officer.

The Order states people must wear a facial covering before they enter:

- Any indoor facility except for their own residence
- Any enclosed space
- Any outdoor space where individuals are unable to maintain at all times a distance of six feet from others.

“Facial coverings are meant to protect the public from the user in case the user is infected and not yet displaying symptoms,” the order states. “Facial coverings used in conjunction with physical distancing of at least six feet and frequent handwashing may reduce the risk of transmission.” Read the full order here: humboldtgov.org/DocumentCenter/View/85482

Humboldt County Health Officer Dr. Teresa Frankovich said requiring facial coverings in public is a necessary first step as shelter-in-place restrictions are eased and movement increases within our community. “Your facial covering protects me and my facial covering protects you,” she said. “Having everyone using facial coverings will help to make us all safer as we move forward.”

Humboldt County Sheriff William Honsal said, “This is the key step in reopening our businesses while continuing to protect the members of our community from the virus. Local law enforcement will be actively engaged in educating the public on the importance of facial coverings.”

Facial coverings should not be placed on children under the age of 2, people who have difficulty breathing or anyone who cannot remove the material without assistance.

Community members are asked not to purchase medical grade surgical or N95 respirator masks, which should be reserved for health care workers. Facial coverings should be regularly washed and sanitized, or changed, and wearers are advised to wash their hands after touching or adjusting their facial coverings.
The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) offers these facial covering guidelines:

- fits snugly but comfortably against the side of the face
- is secured with ties or ear loops
- includes multiple layers of fabric
- allows for breathing without restriction
- is able to be laundered and machine dried without damage or change to shape.

Local retailers are offering facial coverings for sale, some of which are listed below. Please call ahead to check availability.

- Bubbles – 1031 H St., Arcata – 707-822-3450
- North Coast Co-Op – 811 I St., Arcata – 707-822-5947
- North Coast Co-Op – 25 Fourth St., Eureka – 707-443-6027
- Left in Stitches – 905 I St., Fortuna – 707-617-2540
- Organic Grace – 906 Redwood Drive, Garberville – 707-923-1296
- River Song Natural Foods – 80 Country Club Drive, Willow Creek – 530-629-3148
- NOVID-4Me – www.novid4me.com – Online orders only; Arcata-based business


April 21, 2020 - COVID-19 Dialogue to be Broadcast Live Thursday
Humboldt County residents are encouraged to view a live dialogue between Sheriff William Honsal, County Health Officer Dr. Teresa Frankovich and Deputy Health Officer Josh Ennis, “The Economy, the Surge and What’s Next for Humboldt County,” on Thursday, April 23, from 6-7:30 p.m.

As part of this dialogue, officials will discuss steps Humboldt County must take before beginning a phased reopening of our community. The discussion will be joined and moderated by Lost Coast Outpost Editor Hank Sims.

Topics will include:

- Necessary steps to begin reopening businesses and services
- Expanding testing capacity, disease surveillance and contact investigations
- Preparing for medical surge
- Public health risks of reopening the economy
- Public safety and enforcement of regulations.
This type of phased reopening seeks to save lives by controlling spread of the virus to the extent possible and preventing crisis-level impacts to the health care system, while also allowing some non-essential services to resume operations with limitations. Prolonged closure of most businesses comes with significant long-term risk as does reopening these services without a robust response plan in place.

Thursday’s broadcast will also include discussion of data modeling provided by the California Department of Public Health that outlines a range of possible scenarios for COVID-19 trajectory in Humboldt County.

County Health Officer Dr. Teresa Frankovich said, “Our community has done a great job adhering to social distancing measures. However, we fully expect an increase in cases as we ease shelter-in-place restrictions. Our goal this Thursday is to communicate clearly about steps we’ll need to take to keep community members safe while allowing for greater movement.”

Also to be discussed is the state’s roadmap to reopening, recently announced by Governor Newsom. Local officials will share progress made toward the state’s goals, which include expanded testing, preventing infection in higher risk groups, sufficient capacity of hospital beds and supplies, progress in developing therapeutic treatments, support for schools and businesses to implement physical distancing and developing protocols for reinstituting stay-at-home orders if needed.

Sheriff Honsal said, “Our number one priority is the safety and well-being of our community. We are dedicated to getting Humboldt County back to work, with a response plan that takes into account the health of the public. I encourage all members of our community to watch or listen to Thursday’s dialogue.”

The community can view the event live at:

- Access Humboldt’s YouTube Page
- Access Humboldt Channel 10
- WAVE7 (Southern Humboldt WAVE subscribers)
- Listen at KZZH-LP 96.7.

Please join this broadcast to find out how you can be a part of the effort.

**FEATURED VIDEOS FROM HUMBOLDT COUNTY JOINT INFORMATION CENTER**

April 21, 2020 | The COVID Minute - Flatting the Curve
Humboldt County Health Officer Dr. Teresa Frankovich explains what it means to successfully flatten the curve.
April 21, 2020 | Media Availability - Sheriff William Honsal
Sheriff Honsal talks about COVID testing inside the Humboldt County Correctional Facility, crime in the time of a pandemic and the re-opening of the Sheriff's Office's public lobby.

HCOE COVID RESOURCES