



TRINITY COUNTY HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES

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PRESS RELEASE

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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Trinity County Coronavirus (COVID-19) Health Advisory

TRINITY COUNTY – October 8, 2020: On October 3, 2020, Trinity County Public Health Branch (TCPHB) had reported lab confirmation of seven (7) persons who tested positive for COVID-19 in Trinity County, being referred to as a ‘cluster’ and involving Trinity Hospital, Mountain Community Healthcare District.

These original specimens were tested through a high complexity Public Health Lab (PHL) and reported to TCPHB on October 3, 2020. Due to concerns voiced by Trinity Hospital Administration, TCPHB coordinated with the California Department of Public Health (CDPH) and the PHL that tested the original specimens, to send these original specimens to the state Viral and Ricksettial Disease Laboratory (VRDL) for confirmatory testing and genome testing if confirmed positive.

TCPHB received notification this morning from VRDL that the original specimens tested on October 2, 2020 did not demonstrate SARS-CoV-2 (COVID-19) through confirmatory testing by VRDL. Our Hospital Administration has been notified and appropriate action will be taken, including TCPHB rescinding isolation and quarantine orders. This discrepancy in test results of the original specimens is currently under investigation between the Shasta PHL and VRDL.

Since false positive tests are uncommon, the TCPHB acts on all lab confirmed positive tests, and if necessary will work with the CDPH on confirmatory testing as appropriate as in this case.



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