



**NEVADA  
HEALTH  
RESPONSE**

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

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Meghin Delaney

Communications Director

CONTACT: [pressroom@nvhealthresponse.nv.gov](mailto:pressroom@nvhealthresponse.nv.gov)

**COVID-19 Press Bulletin for 12-23-2020**

Carson City, NV — Today, Caleb Cage, Nevada COVID-19 Response Director and Julia Peek, Deputy Administrator of Community Health Services were joined by Candice McDaniel, Health Bureau Chief for the Bureau of Child, Family, and Community Wellness and Dr. Mark Pandori, Nevada's Chief of Testing, to provide updates on Nevada's ongoing COVID-19 response, testing and reporting during a teleconference with members of the media.

This bulletin provides facts, figures, and informational items from the call. As a reminder, data is provided in a dashboard on the home page of the [Nevada Health Response](https://www.nvhealthresponse.nv.gov) website and can be accessed 24 hours a day.

There will be no media call on Friday, Dec. 25. The next call will be Monday, Dec. 28.

**Summary**

- As of today, Nevada has logged 209,962 cases, with the 14-day rolling average of daily cases being 1,905.
- Nevada has now completed a total of 1,984,938 molecular tests since the beginning of COVID-19.
- The test positivity rate over the last 14 days is 19.7%.

- There are currently 2,001 COVID-19 hospitalizations (1,808 confirmed; 193 suspected)
- More information on hospitalization trends can be found on the [Nevada Hospital Association](#) website.

Candice McDaniel, Health Bureau Chief for the Bureau of Child, Family, and Community Wellness, provided an update on the State's current COVID-19 vaccination efforts.

- The first doses of the Pfizer COVID-19 vaccine were distributed in Nevada beginning on Dec. 14.
  - As of today, the state has received 31,200 doses of Pfizer vaccine which have been distributed to hospital staff in every Nevada acute care hospital (17,550 doses) and to the State's pharmacy partners (13,650 doses) who will vaccinate those who work and reside in skilled nursing facilities.
- The second COVID-19 vaccine, from Moderna, received Emergency Use Authorization last week and doses began arriving in Nevada on Dec. 21.
  - 50,300 doses are included in the first Moderna allocation. This allocation will also be distributed to hospitals, frontline public health, laboratory personnel, pharmacists and pharmacy techs and will begin to touch other outpatient and home health providers in Tier 1.
- As of Dec. 22, a total of 16,147 doses of COVID-19 vaccine have been administered and submitted to NV WebIZ.
  - Of this total, 15,207 doses were Pfizer and
  - 940 doses were Moderna

- The state will continue to apply a data-driven approach and work closely with local partners to allocate the available vaccine supply in Nevada.
  - The state is accepting the most recent CDC recommendations for prioritizing use of the vaccines, including incorporating those who are 75 years and older into Tier 2.
  - The Nevada State Immunization Program is reviewing and updating Nevada's playbook to include this new guidance, while also ensuring the plan will best protect the health of Nevadans.
  - As more information is received, information for clinicians, more details on individual populations and guidance related to the specific recommended vaccines will be added.

Dr. Mark Pandori, Nevada's Chief of Testing, provided an update from the State Public Health Laboratory.

- Nevada has received new equipment that will allow for a potential higher rate of tests per day. Additional equipment will have the capability of testing a wide range of infection and offer genetic surveillance.
  
- Dr. Pandori stated preliminary data suggests COVID-19 vaccine efficacy will not be compromised by recent new strains of the virus.

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