



**NEVADA
HEALTH
RESPONSE**

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

December 28, 2020

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COVID-19 Press Bulletin for 12-28-2020

Carson City, NV — Today, Caleb Cage, Nevada COVID-19 Response Director was joined by Dave Fogerson, Chief of the Nevada Division of Emergency Management to provide updates on Nevada’s ongoing COVID-19 response and discuss the State’s coordination efforts for planning, preparing, responding and recovering from emergencies and disasters, during a call with members of the media.

This bulletin provides facts, figures, and informational items from the call. The following data are updated to reflect the dashboard. Updates have been made since the press call. As a reminder, data is provided in a dashboard on the home page of the [Nevada Health Response](#) website and can be accessed 24 hours a day.

SUMMARY:

- The County Criteria Tracker is released every Monday and can be found on the NV Health Response dashboard. All counties in Nevada, with the exception of Storey, have been flagged for elevated disease transmission.
 - All flagged counties met the criteria of a high case rate per 100,000.
 - All counties had a high test positivity rate.

- Eureka and Lincoln were the only counties flagged for a low average number of tests per day per 100,000.
- Due to the holiday schedule, the COVID-19 Mitigation and Management Task Force meeting will be tomorrow, Dec. 29.
- As of today, Nevada has logged 218,377 cases, with the 14-day rolling average of daily cases being 1,781.
- The state has completed a total of 2,047,364 molecular tests since the beginning of COVID-19.
- The test positivity rate over the last 14 days is 19.9%.
- The Nevada Hospital Association reports there are currently 1,899 COVID-19 hospitalizations (1,765 confirmed; 134 suspected)
- More information on hospitalization trends can be found on the [Nevada Hospital Association](#) website.
- At this point, it is too soon to determine the impacts from the holidays.
 - It is possible, there may be an increase in testing numbers within the next week if people chose not to seek testing over the holiday, or because locations were limited over the holiday weekend.
 - It's similar to weekends, where testing and reporting tend to go down, then catch up a few days later -- and similar to what has been experienced as a result of holidays in the past.
 - This is why many of the metrics emphasize using seven or 14-day averages, to smooth out any one-day increases. Focusing on trends remains critical.

Dave Fogerson, Chief of the Nevada Division of Emergency Management discussed the State's coordination efforts for [planning, preparing,](#) responding and recovering from emergencies and disasters as well as their role in the State's COVID-19 response.

- The Division of Emergency Management (DEM), is the state agency that coordinates for emergencies and disasters through the mantra of plan, prepare, respond, and recover.
- All disasters are locally executed, state managed, and federally supported. DEM is the second in line to assist our county emergency managers. An example of this is floods:
 - DEM assists local governments in planning for a flood response including ways to reduce their risk of impact by coordinating with other agencies to fund projects.
 - Preparedness: Assisting with supply needs
 - Response: Through providing state resources
 - Recovery: Overseeing the Federal Emergency Management Agency's (FEMA) public assistance grant program.
- DEM never steps in to take over. When local resources are tapped out, DEM will step in to assist them, if requested. When state resources are tapped out, DEM will reach out to federal partners to assist.
- The division has four main roles in the COVID response:
 - Personal Protective Equipment
 - Coordination
 - Grant funding
 - Communications

- Early in the year there was a limited amount of Personal Protective Equipment (PPE) and the state had to work closely with other agencies and partners to ensure the needs of frontline health care workers are met.
- DEM used Cares Relief funding and state funds to purchase, store, and distribute PPE. As it is a declared disaster, FEMA also supports Nevada by providing ability for public assistance granting to reimburse 75% of eligible state and local government costs.
- The PPE is stockpiled in Northern and Southern Nevada. This stockpile is designed to support local government assist their health care and fire/EMS partners when their supplies run low. The Nevada National Guard, COVID Private Task Force, Las Vegas Convention Center, and the American Red Cross are partners in the stockpile.
- DEM works with local government emergency managers to build up their stocks and then the state stock to provide for over 120-days of PPE from our high-water utilization mark.
- DEM's largest role in an incident is the coordination of county, state, other partners and resource requests by local jurisdictions.
- DEM also coordinates grant funding.
 - The division coordinates funding from FEMA to state and local agencies that reimburses them for 75% of emergency measures costs.
 - Grants provide the division the ability to work on future resiliency items to make the state stronger by leveraging their funds.

- As of this morning, \$137.8 million through 92 grant requests have been given to FEMA and managed by DEM. These grants are the 75% reimbursement to state and local government under the Stafford Act.
- The last component of DEM's role is communications. Through the State Emergency Operations Center, the division houses and staffs the Joint Information Center along with other state agencies, including the Governor's Office, to prepare public education materials on protecting yourself during the pandemic response.
- Nevadans should [have a 72-hour disaster kit](#).
 - Some of the largest risks in Nevada include earthquake, flood, or wildland fire.
 - Nevadans must remember to prepare for an emergency even during this pandemic.
 - All Nevadans play a key role in preserving the healthcare system for you and your loved ones: please help by wearing your masks, staying six feet apart, wash your hands, and avoid large crowds and social gatherings beyond your immediate family.

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