



**NEVADA  
HEALTH  
RESPONSE**

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

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**COVID-19 Daily Press Bulletin for 7-23-2020**

Carson City, NV — Today, Caleb Cage, Nevada COVID-19 Response Director and Julia Peek, Deputy Administrator of Community Health Services, were joined by Dr. Mark Pandori, Nevada's Chief of Testing, to provide updates on the ongoing COVID-19 response, testing and reporting in Nevada during a daily 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.

**SUMMARY:**

- As of today, Nevada has logged 39,919 cases, an increase of 1,262 cases since yesterday. Of these new cases, 91.3% were in Clark County, with 7.1% were in Washoe County. Additionally, 5 deaths were reported.
- Nevada has now completed a total of 526,274 PCR tests since the beginning of COVID-19, an increase of 15,297 since yesterday.
- A press release was issued today explaining the significant increase in testing numbers. The Nevada Department of Health and Human Services implemented an upgrade to the State's Electronic Laboratory

Reporting system to help handle ongoing reporting challenges and the regularly increasing volume of reports transmitted to the State.

- Similar to other systems in the State, the COVID-19 pandemic has put a strain on the system, which was never built to handle such volume of tests reported by a large number of laboratories. In 2019, there were a total of 35,821 records of all the reportable conditions that came into Nevada's public health system. The system now sees that quantity of lab reports in less than a week with COVID-19.
- As a result, the State is reporting 15,297 tests today, 1,262 new positive cases. It is important to note that not all the tests were conducted in one day, but that the State system is now able to more rapidly capture test results reported by individual labs.
- As a reminder, laboratories are expected to process COVID-19 results as fast as possible, notify patients and notify the State.
- The system upgrade does not increase turnaround time in the labs running the tests themselves, but does provide a more timely transmittal of results.
- The State continues to work with local and community partners to increase the capacity to run tests faster in labs and to inform patients of results. Once a specimen has been processed in a lab, the patient has been notified and the State has the lab results, the State can begin the contact tracing process.
- The cumulative test positivity rate is 9.7%. The daily positivity rate is 12.3%. Due to the system upgrade, the daily positivity rate is artificially low for data posted July 23, 2020.

- For the most recent 7-day period ending July 22<sup>nd</sup>, cases are growing at a rate of 3.3%, or 1,143 new cases per day. For comparison, the growth rate for the 7-day period ending June 30 was 3.9%, or 644 new cases per day. The growth rate for the 7-day period ending May 31 was 1.4%, or 116 new cases per day.
- Nevada has 1,136 hospitalized COVID-19 patients as of yesterday, July 22, 2020. Statewide hospital occupancy rates are 74% while intensive care units (ICU) are at an occupancy rate of 66%. About 40% of the ventilators statewide are in use right now for all patients.
- Since the State's first case of COVID-19 through yesterday, we have identified 6,440 new COVID-19 cases (39,919) as a result of contact tracing. This represents 16% of the total to date.
- Contact tracers through the State's contract with Deloitte are working 12 hours a day, seven days a week in Clark County, to complement state and county efforts.
  - Deloitte agents logged a total of 708 calls as of 8 PM PST on July 22. Of these calls, 69 were inbound and 639 were outbound.
  - Deloitte's SMS (text) campaign resulted in 1,002 total SMS messages sent, with 541 unique outbound communications and a 79% response rate from unique contacts.
- Given the increase in numbers it is extremely important to social distance, wear a mask, not socialize in big groups, and maintain general hygiene and cleanliness.

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