



**NEVADA  
HEALTH  
RESPONSE**

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

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**COVID-19 Daily Press Bulletin for 7-29-2020**

Carson City, NV — Today, Caleb Cage, Nevada COVID-19 Response Director and Julia Peek, Deputy Administrator of Community Health Services, provided updates on the ongoing COVID-19 response 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.healthresponse.nv.gov) website and can be accessed 24 hours a day.

**SUMMARY:**

- As of today, Nevada has logged 45,806 cases, an increase of 870 cases since yesterday. Of these new cases, 811 or 93.2% were in Clark County, with 38 (4.4%) in Washoe County. The other 21 (2.4%) were spread throughout the State.
- Nevada has now completed a total of 596,795 PCR tests since the beginning of COVID-19, an increase of 11,059 since yesterday.
- The cumulative test positivity rate is 10%. The daily positivity rate is 12.6%.
- For the most recent 7-day period ending July 23<sup>rd</sup>, cases are growing at a rate of 2.5%, or 1,021 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.

- Data continues to suggest a slowing of growth rates related to both new cases and hospitalizations.
- Nevada recorded an additional 20 deaths today. Please keep in mind that the death rates we are seeing correspond to cases diagnosed up to 5 weeks ago.
- Nevada has 1,110 hospitalized COVID-19 patients as of yesterday, July 28, 2020. Statewide hospital occupancy rates are 74% while intensive care units (ICU) are at an occupancy rate of 63%. About 42% of the ventilators statewide are in use right now for all patients.
- Governor Sisolak's Emergency Directive 028 was released on July 28, 2020 to further support a safe, efficient, and equitable return to school buildings for the 2020-2021 school year. Key aspects of the directive include the following:
  - Face coverings are mandatory for all K-12 students and all school staff. Exemptions may be approved by school building leaders if medical conditions are documented by a medical professional.
  - Face coverings are mandatory, without exceptions, for all other adults in school settings, including parents, vendors, volunteers, visitors, and others.
  - Students and staff are required to follow quarantine and isolation protocols and guidelines when a positive COVID-19 case, presumptive case, or contact with a presumptive case occurs.
- Since the State's first case of COVID-19 through yesterday, we have identified 7,000 new COVID-19 cases (45,806) as a result of contact

tracing. This represents 15.2% 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 810 calls as of 8 PM PST on July 23. Of these calls, 106 were inbound and 704 were outbound.
  - Deloitte's SMS (text) campaign resulted in 787 total SMS messages sent, with 418 unique outbound communications and a 85% response rate from unique contacts.
  
- Per new CDC guidance, isolation is a vital part of keeping our community safe, and for those that have received a positive test for COVID-19.
  
- It is important to understand when it is safe to leave isolation and return to activities such as work and grocery shopping. New research and updated CDC guidance emphasizes the symptom-based strategy as the criteria someone needs to meet to be cleared from isolation, and no longer recommends the test-based strategy.
  
- For patients that were able to complete their isolation at home the criteria is as follows:
  - At least 10 days have passed since symptoms first appeared
  - At least 24 hours have passed since the last fever
  - Symptoms have improved
  
- This the method individuals and employers should use when they are assessing if someone is safe to resume essential activities and return to work after an infection with COVID-19.

- Health care providers and health authorities may still occasionally use the test based method for specific cases, but it is not recommended for most because it may result in prolonged isolation for people that are no longer infectious.
- If someone is identified as a contact to a known case but is not symptomatic and has not had a positive test for COVID-19, it is still very important they quarantine for 14 days because it is possible to develop the disease in this time period if they have been exposed.
- Again, the difference between quarantine and isolation are as follows:
  - Quarantine keeps someone who was in close contact with someone who has COVID-19 away from others. Stay home for 14 days after your last contact and watch for symptoms to develop.
  - Isolation keeps someone who is sick or tested positive for COVID-19 without symptoms away from others, even in their own home. Stay home for at least 10 days since symptoms first appeared, and at least 24 hours with no fever, without fever-reducing medication and when symptoms have improved
- For those who are isolating or in quarantine at home there are resources to help people ensure they are able to stay home. They include, but are not limited to:
  - People who are using Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP) benefits can purchase groceries online through Walmart and Amazon.
  - Nevada CAN, available through Nevada 211, has resources for seniors to request help including food, prescriptions, or even a check-in phone call.

- As mentioned in the introduction, additional information about these resources can be found on the [Nevada Health Response](#) website
- Given the increase in numbers it is extremely important to social distance, wear a face covering, not socialize in big groups, and maintain general hygiene and cleanliness.

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