



**NEVADA
HEALTH
RESPONSE**

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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Meghin Delaney

Communications Director

CONTACT: pressroom@nvhealthresponse.nv.gov

COVID-19 Daily Press Bulletin for 8-3-2020

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.nvhealthresponse.nv.gov) website and can be accessed 24 hours a day.

SUMMARY:

- As a reminder, the Governor is set to hold a press conference tonight to discuss the implementation of a long-term strategy moving forward.
- As of today, Nevada has logged 51,199 cases, an increase of 994 cases since yesterday. Of these new cases, 919 or 92.5% were in Clark County, with 50 or 5.0% in Washoe County. The remaining 25 (2.5%) cases were spread throughout the State.
- Nevada has now completed a total of 641,665 molecular tests since the beginning of COVID-19, an increase of 4,639 since yesterday.

- This is an unusually low number of new tests added to the system. DHHS is working with our vendor to determine the nature of the data reporting issues today.
- The cumulative test positivity rate is 10.6%. We're not reporting a daily positivity rate today, given the concerns with the potential reporting issue. It would be an unreliable statistic.
- For the most recent 7-day period, cases are growing at a rate of 2.2%, or 1,053 new cases per day. For comparison, the growth rate for the 7-day period ending July 31 was 2.3%, or 1,037 new cases per day. 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 15 deaths today. Please keep in mind that the death rates we are seeing correspond to cases diagnosed up to 5 weeks ago.
- Nevada has 1,152 hospitalized COVID-19 patients as of yesterday, August 2, 2020. Statewide hospital occupancy rates are 76% while intensive care units (ICU) are at an occupancy rate of 66%. About 45% 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 7,436 new COVID-19 cases (51,199) as a result of contact tracing. This represents 14.5% 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 contact tracers are now providing surge capacity to Southern Nevada Health District, Carson City Health and Human Services, and Washoe County Health District

- From July 27 to August 2, Deloitte agents logged a total of 5,264 calls as of 8 PM PST on August 2. Of these calls, there were 582 inbound calls received (of which 543 were handled and 39 were abandoned) and 4,682 outbound calls made.
- Deloitte's SMS (text) campaign resulted in 6,180 total SMS messages sent, with 3,341 unique outbound communications and an average response rate of 83% from unique contacts.
- DHHS is actively looking into the testing of the same individual multiple times. Approximately 21% of the specimens collected to date have been among individuals who tested more than once.
- In order to better understand why this percentage of the population is retesting, the Nevada Department of Health and Human Services – Office of Analytics is working on an analysis of this group. Some additional data:
 - As of July 31, 79% of the individuals tested for COVID-19 in Nevada have received only a single molecular test.
 - An additional 16% have received two tests, and 5% have received more than two tests.
 - Of the 21% of individuals with who have received more than one molecular test, their testing patterns between their first and second test are as follows:
 - 86% of these individuals had an initial negative test.

- 95% of those received another negative test after that first negative test, with a average time between tests of 12 days.
- Of the 14% who had an initial positive, 54% had a following positive test, with an average time between tests of 9 days.
- Based on this analysis, we are looking at whether there is a more effective way to report lab data, specifically as it relates to positivity rates. Historically, Nevada has used lab tests among unique people as the denominator, versus total tests.
- We are assessing what other states are doing and have found there was not a consistent standard. Some states reported on total specimens, others on unique patients.
- We will continue to look at this issue going forward and provide updates as appropriate.
- 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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