



**NEVADA
HEALTH
RESPONSE**

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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COVID-19 Press Bulletin for 9-16-2020

Carson City, NV — Today, Governor Steve Sisolak was joined by Caleb Cage, Nevada COVID-19 Response Director and Julia Peek, Deputy Administrator of Community Health Services, to provide 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:

- Nevada recently dropped off a travel advisory listing with three states on the East Coast: New York, New Jersey and Connecticut.
- The State monitors weekly reports put out by the White House Coronavirus Task Force. For the second week in a row, Nevada as a whole is in the yellow zone.
- Nevada's case numbers are decreasing and so is the seven-day average test positivity rate. While this is good news, the State has learned over the course of the past 6 months that we can't let our guard down. This is the time Nevadans must remain more committed than ever to protecting each other and the State's economy.

- As mentioned before, the Governor has tasked experts in State government representing business, enforcement and public health to conduct a deep dive evaluation of current statewide standards and restrictions.
- As a reminder, the statewide standards are the mitigation measures everyone and every county must follow, regardless of whether they are listed as “high risk” or not.
- Specifically, the Governor has asked the group to review current statewide capacity and gathering limits to see how the State can make adjustments that are Nevada-specific and tailored for the economic and social activities in our State. Once this is developed, it could impact everything from church gatherings to business meetings. Again, the goal these experts are working toward is to ensure this can be done safely.
- That evaluation is active and ongoing, and the Governor and his team look forward to being able to roll out these announcements once a plan has been developed and finalized. This is the natural next step in how Nevadans learn to live with an active pandemic in the State.
- As always, the Governor will continue to be flexible and continue to watch the trends in data. The numbers are getting lower, and the State wants to maintain that trend.
- Given what has occurred in the last few weeks with Labor Day and other large gatherings, the Governor remains cautious and will make sure the State is not moving too fast in loosening more restrictions - he does not want to see another spike.
- More importantly, as the State continues its data review and makes adjustments along the way, success will hinge on Nevadans

continuing to take this pandemic seriously and remaining vigilant.

- As the Governor said to a group of Washoe County students earlier this week: all Nevadans must practice the 3 W's: wash your hands, watch your distance and wear your mask.
- As of today, Nevada has logged 74,248 cases, an increase of 208 new cases. 125 or 60% were in Clark County, 42 or 20% were in Washoe County, and 41 or 20.0% were spread throughout the State.
- Nevada has now completed a total of 953,155 molecular tests since the beginning of COVID-19, an increase of 4,971 since yesterday.
- The cumulative test positivity rate is at 10.1%. The daily positivity rate is 7.0%.
- For the most recent 7-day period, cases are growing at a rate of 0.4%, or 284 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.
- Nevada has 488 hospitalized COVID-19 patients as of yesterday, September 15, 2020. This includes 373 confirmed patients and 115 suspected patients. Statewide hospital occupancy rates are 72% while intensive care units (ICU) are at an occupancy rate of 60%. About 40% of the ventilators statewide are in use right now for all patients.
- Since the beginning of COVID in our State through today, a total of 18,055 cases have been identified as a result of contact tracing efforts statewide. This now represents 24.3% of the total cases reported to date.

- In relation to contact tracing surge staffing output, Deloitte agents logged a total of 885 calls as of 8 PM PST on 9/15/2020.
- Text messaging close contacts resulted in 1,748 total SMS messages sent as of 8 PM last night, with 640 unique outbound communications and an 83% response rate from unique contacts.
- Since the start of the State's COVID surge staffing on June 18th, a total of 87,706 calls have been logged.
- The COVID Trace app has been downloaded 30,277 times since its launch.
- As a reminder to all Nevadans, there are multiple opportunities to get tested for COVID in the State. Information on where to get tested can be found on the Nevada Health Response website.
- Any Nevadan who purchased health insurance coverage on their own through the individual health insurance market such as Nevada Health Link or who has coverage sponsored by their employers on the small or large groups markets are able to obtain free testing for COVID-19.
- Nevadans covered by health insurance policies regulated by the Nevada Division of Insurance (individual health plans, small group plans, large group plans, and catastrophic plans) are able to obtain certain medical services and testing related to COVID-19 without being responsible for co-pays or the actual cost of the test itself.
- This effectively means insurance companies are required to cover—with no out-of-pocket cost—testing for COVID-19 and the visit to a provider's office, an urgent care center, a center for emergency

medical care, an emergency room, or a COVID-19 screening or testing site when the purpose of the visit is to be tested for COVID-19 for a symptomatic individual.

- Consumers who have health insurance and need to get tested for COVID-19 should start first by calling their doctor's office and alerting them that they may have been exposed regardless if they have symptoms or not and ask for a referral on how, where, and when to get tested.
- Consumers who do not have health insurance or are covered by other policies not regulated by the Division are also encouraged to get tested. There are several testing sites set up by county health department and medical centers, being offered at no cost to anyone, whether they have symptoms or not. It is best to review the Nevada Health Response website for testing opportunities.
- As it relates to vaccination, today, the CDC released the COVID-19 VACCINATION PROGRAM INTERIM PLAYBOOK FOR JURISDICTION OPERATIONS. The Nevada DHHS team is actively reviewing and cross-walking it with the current draft plan to ensure that the State is in alignment.
- The most important discussion related to vaccination now, though, is to ensure that Nevadans get their flu vaccinations.
- The State and local health departments will continue to provide updates on COVID vaccinations regularly, as well.

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