



**NEVADA  
HEALTH  
RESPONSE**

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

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**COVID-19 Press Bulletin for 9-18-2020**

Carson City, NV — Today, Caleb Cage, Nevada COVID-19 Response Director and Julia Peek, Deputy Administrator of Community Health Services, provided updates on Nevada's ongoing COVID-19 response, testing and reporting during a 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 75,096 cases, an increase of 501 new cases. 302 or 60.3% were in Clark County, 166 or 33.1% were in Washoe County, and 33 or 6.6% were spread throughout the State.
- Nevada has now completed a total of 967,840 molecular tests since the beginning of COVID-19, an increase of 8,001 since yesterday.
- The cumulative test positivity rate is at 10.1%. The daily positivity rate is 8.2%.
- For the most recent 7-day period, cases are growing at a rate of 0.4%, or 327 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 461 hospitalized COVID-19 patients as of yesterday, September 17, 2020. This includes 358 confirmed patients and 103 suspected patients. Statewide hospital occupancy rates are 74% while intensive care units (ICU) are at an occupancy rate of 61%. About 35% of the ventilators statewide are in use right now for all patients.
- The relative demand of hospitals, as a result of COVID-19, are as follows for each region:
  - **Northern Region** – 5% of all patients, 16% of all ICU patients and 9% of vent. Inventory
  - **Rural Region** – 13% of all patients, 20% of all ICU patients and 0% of vent. Inventory
  - **Southern Region** – 11% of all patients, 24% of all ICU patients and 10% of vent. Inventory
  - **State of Nevada** – 9% of all patients, 22% of all ICU patients and 9% of vent. Inventory
- Since the beginning of COVID in our state to today, we have identified a total of 18,423 cases as a result of our contact tracing efforts statewide. This now represents 24.5% of the total cases reported to date.
- For our contact tracing surge staffing, Deloitte logged a total of 1,141 calls as of 8 PM PST on September 17th.
- Deloitte's SMS (text) campaign resulted in 1,530 total text messages sent, with 573 unique outbound communications and an 80% response rate from unique contacts.
- Since the start of our COVID surge staffing on June 18<sup>th</sup>, they have logged a total of 89,853 calls.

- The COVID Trace app has been downloaded 32,636 times since its launch.
- Related to point of care machines, which has come up on some of our recent calls, the federal government deployed some rapid test machines to Nevada skilled nursing facilities which are required to test patients regularly. The Division of Public and Behavioral Health is assisting facilities receiving the machines with getting the proper licensing and permits in place to perform the tests onsite enabling quick results. At this time, 27 skilled nursing facilities (SNF) have received the BD Veritor Plus machine and 25 SNF's have received the Quidel Sofia II Point of care machine.
- As of now, and schedule permitting, Dr. Pandori will join one of the press calls next week to speak more specifically about point of care tests and other lab services.

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