



**NEVADA
HEALTH
RESPONSE**

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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Meghin Delaney

Communications Director

CONTACT: pressroom@nvhealthresponse.nv.gov

COVID-19 Press Bulletin for 10-9-2020

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.

Prior to the summary of updates, Director Cage stated that on Tuesday, October 6, 2020, he was confirmed to have COVID-19, after developing symptoms over the previous weekend.

As has already been released by the Governor’s Office, the Governor’s Office followed all the proper public health procedures and protocols upon learning he was experiencing symptoms, including transitioning all staff, who worked in the Governor’s Capitol Office in the last two weeks and/or who may have come in contact with him, to a work from home status last Monday.

SUMMARY:

- Last week, the COVID-19 Mitigation and Management Task Force unanimously agreed to change the thresholds related to two of the three criteria.
 - Counties are measured against the average number of tests per day per 100,000 residents. Previously, counties were required to conduct an average of at least 150 tests per day. The Task Force agreed to adjust that threshold to an average of 100 tests per day.
 - The Task Force also agreed to increase the test positivity rate from 7 percent to 8 percent.
 - The Task Force took no action on the threshold for the case rate. Counties with a case rate greater than 200 cases per 100,000 residents will continue to meet this criteria.
 - There will be no Task Force meeting this week. The Task Force discussed changing the meeting requirement from every week to every other week moving forward. The Task Force is expected to meet again on Thursday, Oct. 22.

- The updated information from the County Criteria Tracker is released every Monday. Changes from last week are:
 - Lyon and Washoe have been flagged for elevated disease transmission. Both are due to high case rates (205.2 and 463.0 per 100,000, respectively) and high test positivity (both 8.2%). This is Washoe's third consecutive week.
 - Humboldt is no longer flagged/ They are a smaller population and as a result tend to have larger fluctuation week to week. This week they had a lower test positivity rate (at 6.5%).
 - Storey has insufficient testing and high test positivity. However, they are not flagged overall because of the requirement for the

test positivity to be paired with a case rate of at least 50 (to control for small sample size).

- Clark shows trends that indicate transmission is increasing. (Test positivity is 7.6% and increasing case rate).
- There are early warning signs that indicate potentially increased transmission.
 - As of today, Nevada has logged 86,348 cases, an increase of 569 new cases.
 - 415 or 72.9% in Clark County
 - 128 or 22.5% in Washoe County; and
 - 26 or 4.6% spread throughout the rest of the State.
 - Nevada has now completed a total of 1,143,512 molecular tests since the beginning of COVID-19, an increase of 8,067 since yesterday.
 - The cumulative test positivity rate is at 9.8%. The daily positivity rate is 10.1%.
 - The 7-day moving average of test positivity rate is up to 10.4%, from a low of 6.6% on September 17 and 18.
 - For the most recent 7-day period, cases are growing at a rate of 0.7%, or 559 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 continues to experience a steady increase in COVID-19 confirmed hospitalizations for the past 5 days. However, hospital infrastructure remains in good condition.
 - Nevada has approximately 509 hospitalized COVID-19 patients as of yesterday, October 11, 2020. This number includes 382 confirmed patients and 127 suspected patients.

- Statewide hospital occupancy rates are at 70%, ICU occupancy rate is at 55% and ventilator use is at 28% statewide, for all patients.
 - Of all patients requiring ICU level care, 24% are for COVID-19 and COVID-19 patients are using 6% of the ventilator inventory.
 - Statewide, relative demand remains low with 11% of hospitalized patients having or being suspected of having COVID-19.
- Statewide contact tracing efforts are ongoing and Nevadans are encouraged to download the COVID Trace app to their smartphone.
 - Since the beginning of COVID in the state to today, a total of 21,856 cases have been identified as a result of contact tracing efforts. This represents 25.3% of the total cases reported to date.
 - Since June 18, 2020 surge staff have logged a total of 117,788 calls to close contacts.
 - Agents logged a total of 1,100 calls as of 8 p.m. PST on October 11.
 - Related to the text messaging of close contacts, the campaign resulted in 2,345 total text message exchanges, with 862 unique outbound communications and an 83% response rate from unique contacts.
 - There have been 46,007 downloads of the COVID Trace app, as of last night.

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