



**NEVADA  
HEALTH  
RESPONSE**

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

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**COVID-19 Press Bulletin for 10-19-2020**

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](#) website and can be accessed 24 hours a day.

**SUMMARY:**

- The County Criteria Tracker is released every Monday and can be found on the NV Health Response dashboard. Changes from last week are as follows:
  - Lyon and Washoe remain flagged for elevated disease transmission and for meeting the same two criteria from the previous week. Both are due to high case rates over the last 30 days (Sept. 19- Oct. 18) and high test positivity over a 14 day period with a seven day lag (Sept. 29- Oct. 12)
    - Lyon has a case rate of 231 per 100,000 and a test positivity of 11.4%.
    - Washoe has a case rate of 545 per 100,000 and a test positivity of 8.5%.

- This is Washoe's fourth consecutive week on the list and Lyon's second.
- Clark, Elko and Lincoln have also been flagged for meeting the same two criteria of high case rates and high test positivity.
  - Clark has a case rate of 421 per 100,000 and a test positivity of 8.6%.
  - Elko has a case rate of 396 per 100,000 and a test positivity of 8.2%.
  - Lincoln has a case rate of 327 per 100,000 and a test positivity of 10.7%.
- As of today, Nevada has logged 90,843 cases, an increase of 582 new cases.
  - 460 or approx. 79% were in Clark County.
  - 97 or approx. 16.7% were in Washoe County.
  - 25 or approx. 4.3% were spread throughout the rest of the State.
- For the most recent 7-day period, cases are growing at a rate of 0.7%, or 642 new cases per day.
- Nevada has now completed a total of 1,149,160 molecular tests since the beginning of COVID-19. That is an increase of 7,867 tests.
- The test positivity rate over the last 14 days is 9.1%.
- Statewide hospital occupancy rates are at 71%.
  - ICU occupancy rate is at 60%.
  - Ventilator use is at 29 % statewide, for all patients.
- There have been increases in confirmed COVID-19 hospitalizations, however, the hospital infrastructure remains in good condition, with

the relative demand placed on hospitals by COVID-19 patients being 10%, overall.

- Nevada has approximately 485 total hospitalized COVID-19 patients as of yesterday, October 18, 2020.
  - This number includes 404 confirmed patients.
    - This is the highest number of confirmed COVID-19 hospitalizations since Sept. 9, 2020.
  - There are 81 suspected patients.
- Intensive care is also at a 10-day high with 148 confirmed or suspected COVID-19 patients admitted to an ICU bed.
    - This makes up 24% of all patients requiring ICU level care.
  - However, the need for mechanical ventilation continues to decline (n=53) which may be indicative of hospital experience and the newer therapies that hospitals now have, compared to earlier when the healthcare system had no hands-on experience with the virus.
    - Of all patients using ventilator, 5% are COVID-19 patients
  - Statewide traditional case investigation and contact tracing efforts are ongoing, and Nevadans are encouraged to download the COVID Trace app to their smartphone to supplement those efforts.
    - Since the beginning of COVID in the state through today, a total of 23,007 cases have been identified as a result of contact tracing efforts. This now represents 25.3% of the total cases reported to date.
    - At this time the State has no data to report out on the political rallies and early voting events that occurred this week in relation to possible COVID exposure. Public health officials have reached out to the local epidemiology programs to see if they were aware of any known cases or contacts who attended such events, and they have none to report. If there was possible

exposure at such events, the State would likely see nothing in the data for several days to a week, as there is a delay with symptom onset and testing. If anyone is experiencing symptoms or became aware of possible exposure, public health officials encourage them to visit the NV Health Response website to identify testing opportunities locally.

- Since June 18, 2020 surge staff have logged a total of 127,311 calls to close contacts.
- From October 11<sup>th</sup> to the 17<sup>th</sup>, there were a total of 4,424 unique individuals identified as close contacts in our largest regions – Clark, Washoe, and Quad-County region and followed up on by our surge staffing. All of these individual exposures were contacted within 24 hours of the record ingestion.
- Related to the State’s surge staffing efforts from last week (12<sup>th</sup> to the 18<sup>th</sup>), the agents logged a total of 9,523 calls.
- Related to the text messaging of close contacts, the campaign resulted in 18,055 total texts messages exchanged, with 6,590 unique outbound communications and a peak response rate of 85% from unique contacts on 10/14, 10/15, and 10/18.
- There are now 52,657 downloads of the COVID Trace app, as of last night. The State remains at 2 cases having had the app downloaded at the time of their diagnosis and 12 exposure notifications as a result.
- Nevada’s Immunization Program successfully submitted the COVID vaccination plan to the CDC last Friday. The State expects their review will take at least a week.

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