



**NEVADA  
HEALTH  
RESPONSE**

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

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**COVID-19 Press Bulletin for 12-7-2020**

Carson City, NV — Today, Caleb Cage, Nevada COVID-19 Response Director and Julia Peek, Deputy Administrator of Community Health Services were joined by Tina Dortch, Program Manager of the Nevada Office of Minority Health and Equity to provide updates on Nevada's ongoing COVID-19 response and discuss the State's minority health and equity program, during a call 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. All counties in Nevada, with the exception of Storey, have been flagged for elevated disease transmission.
  - All flagged counties met the criteria of a high case rate per 100,000.
  - All counties had a high test positivity rate.
  - Lincoln was the only county flagged for a low average of tests per day.

- As of today, Nevada has logged 170,587 cases, an increase of 2,448 new cases since yesterday.
- The state has completed a total of 1,747,116 molecular tests since the beginning of COVID-19.
- For the most recent 7-day period, cases are growing at a rate of 1.6% or 2,631 new cases per day.
- The test positivity rate over the last 14 days is 21.2% - the highest 14-day test positivity rate since the start of the pandemic in Nevada.
- According to the Nevada Hospital Association, Nevada continues to be in the midst of an increasing COVID-19 (hospitalization) curve and is experiencing rising numbers of people requiring intensive care and mechanical ventilation.
  - There are currently 1,767 COVID-19 hospitalizations (1,617 confirmed; 150 suspected)
  - In the past month (Nov. 6-Dec. 6) hospitalized patients with COVID-19 has increased more than 230% (from 692 to 1,617) and the need for mechanical ventilation has increased, in excess of 250%, with cases rising from 89 to 227 during this timeframe.
  - The relative demand of hospitalized patients with COVID-19 is now near 32% and the Intensive Care burden is near 36%.
  - Unlike earlier increases in the hospitalization curve, hospitals are reporting sufficient levels of personal protective equipment and access to COVID-19 testing has significantly improved. New therapeutics also are available including antibody infusions.
- More information on hospitalization trends can be found on the [Nevada Hospital Association](#) website.

Tina Dortch, Program Manager with the [Nevada Office of Minority Health and Equity \(NOMHE\)](#) discussed the State's program.

- NOMHE advocates on behalf of Nevada's marginalized communities – those that identify as Black, Indigenous or People of Color (or BIPOC), it advocates across all sexual orientation and gender identity demographics and advocates on behalf of people identifying as differently-abled.
  - The office expresses its advocacy by developing equity-focused principles and influencing equity-focused policy that translates into much-needed programming at the community level.
- In addition to advocacy, activities of NOMHE can be described by two additional functions:
  - Educating entities interested in reversing disproportionately adverse impacts on the health of marginalized communities by introducing them to systemic approaches to address disparities.
    - NOMHE is in the final stages of developing a COVID Response Toolkit, which is anticipated to be ready the end of December 2020. Its purpose is to educate, equip and maximize the service delivery capacity of persons or entities focused on addressing health-related needs across vulnerable communities.
    - Content is divided into 4 categories: Cultural literacy strategies; outreach and public awareness strategies; contact tracing and emergency response strategies and action planning and reporting strategies.
    - Selected content will be available in culturally appropriate and adaptive formats when possible.
    - The targeted user will be health equity advocates and organizations committed to culturally competent service delivery.

- The second function of NOMHE is to amplify equity.
  - NOMHE serves to translate its equity-focused mission into actions
  - Similar to its educational function, NOMHE's "equity amplifying" efforts have been focused on acts conducted in direct service to COVID responsiveness.
- NOMHE's primary collaborative partner is the Nevada Minority Health Equity Coalition (NMHEC). Using a CARES funded grant from DHHS, the membership-driven entity issued 10 subawards to member organizations representing populations across all marginalized demographics in 7 high risk/targeted communities – in an effort named the #OneCommunity Initiative. The organizations are trusted at the community level. Each is sharing culturally and linguistically appropriate information, addressing COVID topics and concerns as part of the Initiative's education and outreach campaign.
- On Dec. 14, NOMHE and the NMHEC will conduct a webinar entitled "CARES Dollars in ACTION." NOMHE will use the webinar to announce the activation date of our Toolkit and NMHEC will discuss the impact of the #OneCommunity Initiative.

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