



**NEVADA
HEALTH
RESPONSE**

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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COVID-19 Press Bulletin for 1-25-2021

Carson City, NV — Today, Caleb Cage, Nevada COVID-19 Response Director was joined by Dr. Mark Pandori, Nevada's Chief of Testing and Candice McDaniel, Health Bureau Chief for the Bureau of Child, Family, and Community Wellness, to provide updates on Nevada's ongoing COVID-19 response, testing, reporting and vaccination planning 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 271,897 cases, with the 14-day rolling average of daily cases being 1,281.
- Typically, there are some delays in reported cases over the weekend, but today is the first day with less than 1,000 new cases since early November. This is not exactly a trend that has been identified, but it is an indicator that the mitigation measures are working.
- Nevada has now completed a total of 2,427,440 molecular tests since the beginning of COVID-19.

- The test positivity rate over the last 14 days is 19.4%.
- The Nevada Hospital Association is reporting there are currently 1,441 COVID-19 hospitalizations (1,326 confirmed; 115 suspected).
- More information can be found at [NVHealthResponse.nv.gov](https://www.nvhealthresponse.nv.gov).

Nevada State Public Health Laboratory – Dr. Mark Pandori:

- The Nevada State Public Health Laboratory (NSPHL) at the University of Nevada, Reno School of Medicine has characterized the first known Nevada case of the new B.1.1.7 coronavirus strain, known as the United Kingdom variant.
- The new strain was detected in a sample that was initially tested in the Southern Nevada Public Health Laboratory (SNPHL).
- The specimen was collected during routine community collection activities and tested by SNPHL to determine if it was positive for the virus that causes COVID-19.
- During testing, it was discovered the specimen was showing characteristics of the variant. It was then sent to NSPHL for sequencing and confirmation.
- The NSPHL sequenced the specimen on Thursday, Jan. 21 and analyzed the data that detected the new strain of SARS-CoV-2, the virus that causes COVID-19, in Nevada on Friday, Jan. 22.
- This strain is more contagious, but it is not yet known whether the variant causes a more severe illness than the reference COVID-19 strain.

- The Laboratory has been analyzing positive COVID-19 virus samples for the B.1.1.7 strain since mid-December 2020 through whole genome sequencing.
- Full statement: [Nevada State Public Health Laboratory detects new COVID-19 strain B.1.1.7 in Nevada](#)

Health Bureau Chief for the Bureau of Child, Family, and Community Wellness – Candice McDaniel

- As of January 24, 164,352 doses of COVID-19 vaccine have been administered and reported to NV WebIZ, including 22,438 second doses.
- Vaccine data remains dynamic and changes throughout each day, but it is important to address the rumors, data questions and other items related to vaccine to ensure the full context of the situation can be communicate to the public. Below are some of the recent items that need clarity:
- Rumor: “Nevada is hoarding doses in warehouses.”
 - This is a complex logistical planning process that has required the state and local partners to work together to reach Nevadans and ensure those who are eligible to get the vaccine are aware and are able to make an appointment.
 - Of 286,950 doses distributed by the federal government, 212,100 doses have been delivered to counties and providers.

- 74,850 doses have been delivered to pharmacies for long term care and skilled nursing residents and staff as well as the pharmacy bridge.
- Each week, doses are received in Nevada and are sent to, and used by, our counties, providers and pharmacies.
- The state is working to vaccinate as many Nevadans as possible, as quickly as possible, with the limited doses received from the federal government.
- Federal Data Clarification: "We are last in the country for administering vaccines."
 - Each day more and more doses are added to NV WebIZ, and the data entry of doses administered is a time consuming process. The priority continues to be to get shots in arms.
 - As of today, more than 164,000 doses have been reported to the system, but based on constant communication with counties and local partners, around 20,000 doses have been administered and have not yet been added to the NV WebIZ system. When this data backlog is added, it means that of the doses delivered and distributed to the state, more than 60% of those have been administered.
 - The Nevada State Immunization Program is working with counties, local health authorities and partners to address the manpower needs to remedy this backlog and streamline the process going forward.

- 20 Nevada National Guard members also assisting with data entry as of Jan. 25, 2021.
- There are other logistical considerations for administering doses. For reference, there are 670 facilities included in the long term care pharmacy program.
- 530 facilities have received vaccine and have been scheduled with CVS or Walgreens.
- This program began December 21 and this strike team delivery mechanism is critical to protect the most vulnerable Nevadans.
- The efficiency of this process, compared to a mass vaccination event, is very different – but the state is ensuring this critical need is met.
- Doses allocated that are not used with this project will be transferred for general population use with the close of the project in the coming weeks.
- Federal Data Clarification: “Nevada is among a handful of states not ordering up to their limit of vaccine doses from the federal government” (*according to Washington Post*)
 - Nevada is ordering first doses of vaccine up to the federally allocated cap, but only ordering second doses in quantities requested from vaccinators.
 - The second dose of Pfizer vaccine can be administered after 21 days and there is a 28-day interval between the first and second doses of the Moderna vaccine.

- These doses are being ordered as the time approaches to use them.
- Federal Data Clarification: "According to publicly available federal data, Nevada has received the second-lowest number of vaccine doses per capita among all U.S. states so far."
 - Governor Steve Sisolak wrote a letter to acting Health and Human Services Secretary Norris Cochran regarding the State's federal allocation of the COVID-19 vaccine. According to publicly available federal data, Nevada has received the second-lowest number of vaccine doses per capita among all U.S. states so far.
 - The Governor is seeking additional clarification from the federal government on the population numbers used to calculate the State's pro rata allocation.
- Rumor: "Nevadans won't be able to get their second doses."
 - As of January 24, 22,438 second doses of COVID-19 vaccine have been reported to NV WebIZ.
 - The federal government has held second doses back but there has not been a disruption in this process that would inhibit Nevadans from receiving their second doses.
 - What is critical to understand is that a new shipment of doses does not come to the provider with labels for first or second doses.

- Vaccination partners receive a bulk shipment and it takes a workforce and a process to plan and thaw for first and second dose events while updating appointment opportunities.

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