



**NEVADA  
HEALTH  
RESPONSE**

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

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Meghin Delaney

Communications Director

CONTACT: [pressroom@nvhealthresponse.nv.gov](mailto:pressroom@nvhealthresponse.nv.gov)

**COVID-19 Press Bulletin for 1-6-2021**

Carson City, NV — Today, Caleb Cage, Nevada COVID-19 Response Director was joined by Dr. Mark Pandori, Nevada's Chief of Testing, to provide 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 237,393 cases, with the 14-day rolling average of daily cases being 1,570.
- Nevada has now completed a total of 2,162,129 molecular tests since the beginning of COVID-19.
- The test positivity rate over the last 14 days is 20.2%.
- The Nevada Hospital Association is reporting there are currently 1,919 COVID-19 hospitalizations (1,739 confirmed; 180 suspected).
- As of Jan. 5, 39,752 doses of COVID-19 vaccine have been administered and reported to NV WebIZ.

- This includes almost 1,000 second-doses, completed in the past 2 days, for Nevadans who were the first to be immunized in December.
- Counties and Local Health Authorities are working to vaccinate their Tier 1 populations and the information provided accounts for data updated in the NV WebIZ system. All doses will be added to the system, but there is a delay from when the vaccine is administered, until the data entry is complete.
- The United States is rolling out a two-dose vaccine to everyone in the nation who wants it and at this time only a limited amount is available. Local partners are doing the best they can and deserve a lot of credit for the work being done. The team is always re-evaluating how the state can assist further.

**Dr. Mark Pandori, Nevada's Chief of Testing, provided an update from the State Public Health Laboratory.**

- The Nevada State Public Health Laboratory (NSPHL) has now screened 400 *positive* swab specimens for the B.1.1.7 variant, originally found in the United Kingdom, collected in Nevada between December 19 and December 30, 2020. None of the specimens have been found to be B.1.1.7.
- NSPHL has screened all 400 positives by way of a molecular assay that rapidly detects B.1.1.7 candidates and then sequence the whole genomes of positives to confirm.
- Note that NSPHL is one of three public health labs that now run a novel sequencing platform that allows the laboratory to sequence the entire genomes of 32 positive specimens per day.

- NSPHL is also working with SNPHL to screen candidates from their Lab.
- In addition to B.1.1.7, the NSPHL is also expanding to do surveillance capably of identifying the "South African" strain, 501Y.v2.

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