



**NEVADA
HEALTH
RESPONSE**

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Meghin Delaney

Communications Director

CONTACT: pressroom@nvhealthresponse.nv.gov

COVID-19 Press Bulletin for 2-3-2021

Carson City, NV — Today, Julia Peek, Deputy Administrator of Community Health Services was joined by Candice McDaniel, Health Bureau Chief for the Bureau of Child, Family, and Community Wellness, and Kyra Morgan, Department of Health and Human Services, Chief Biostatistician to provide updates on Nevada's ongoing COVID-19 response.

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:

- As of today, Nevada has logged 280,707 cases, with the 14-day rolling average of daily cases being 896.
- The state has completed a total of 2,511,160 molecular tests since the beginning of COVID-19.
- The test positivity rate over the last 14 days is 16.9%.
- The Nevada Hospital Association reports there are currently 1,145 COVID-19 hospitalizations (1,040 confirmed; 105 suspected)

- More information on hospitalization trends can be found on the [Nevada Hospital Association](#) website.
- The CDC released guidance on safer ways to watch the Super Bowl. Gathering virtually or with the people you live with is the safest way to celebrate the Super Bowl this year. If you have a small gathering with people who don't live with you, outdoors is safer than indoors and it is important to ensure you remain masked and social distance from one another.

COVID Vaccination Call Center

- The Nevada Department of Health and Human Services launched a vaccination call center to answer questions and assist those who may need help making an appointment.
- Through the call center, Nevadans can access county-specific updates and information as more Nevadans become eligible to receive the COVID-19 vaccine.
- There are many reasons that the centralized call center was initiated.
 - First, it is important to ensure anyone who is eligible for a vaccine has an easy way to navigate appointment booking. Ensuring equity is the cornerstone of the vaccination efforts. If someone does not have easy access to the Internet or a smart phone, they can use the call center for support.
 - Second, the Department wants to ensure that if an individual is not in the current group being vaccinated, they can note their interest in vaccination through the NV COVID Fighter website. This is also supported by the call center resources.

- Those who can make an appointment online are encouraged to continue to do so. If Nevadans know of seniors or individuals that might struggle with accessing these resources, they are encouraged to assist them with this process.
- The call center has bilingual staff that speak English and Spanish and can access the language line for other languages as needed.
- The call center is open 8 a.m. to 8 p.m., seven days a week and can be reached at 1-800-401-0946.
- The latest vaccination information is available on NVCOVIDFighter.org.

COVID Vaccination Dashboard Data

- Today, the DHHS Office of Analytics, added a dashboard tab to provide weekly immunization numbers. For now, dashboard updates will occur on Wednesdays.
- This page includes total doses reported as administered in Nevada WebIZ, total vaccinations reported as initiated and total vaccinations reported as completed, as well as vaccination rates per 100,000 Nevada residents. Similar to the other metrics we have on the dashboard, the rates per 100,000 allow us to compare regions with different population sizes, including counties within Nevada and other states.
- The dashboard can be found on the NVHealthResponse.nv.gov home page as a new tab on the existing COVID-19 dashboard and the functionality mirrors that of the other categorical tabs under the "Current Status" section. It is also important to note that the county

assignment is based on the clinic where the vaccination was administered.

Vaccination Efforts

- As of February 2, 288,531 doses of COVID-19 vaccine have been administered and reported to NV WebIZ. Nevada is leading FEMA Region 9 in the percentage of COVID-19 doses administered compared to the number of doses received, based on data from February 1.
- As of yesterday, 417,875 doses of vaccine have been distributed in Nevada, including to our pharmacy partners.
- On Monday and Tuesday of this week, Nevada providers received a mix of 49,075 first and second doses.
- Since the delivery schedule is still not well defined, the State will not include doses in the State on the dashboard at this time. The team is working to identify the best way to accurately share this information in the future.
- The state continues to refine processes and breakdown barriers, including clearing a data entry backlog of approximately 20,000 doses in Southern Nevada. Through a partnership with FEMA and other State resources, the backlog has been eliminated. The State will continue to work with Southern Nevada to ensure this does not happen in the future.
- At the Governor's behest, the State continues to work with federal agencies to ensure as many doses of these vaccines are coming to

the State as possible.

- Nevada is ready for more doses. The State continues to work proactively with the counties to set up sites, clear backlogs and ensure the playbook is followed, ensuring our most vulnerable populations are reached.
- The State continues to have productive conversations with the federal government regarding Nevada's vaccine allocation, including an acknowledgement that Nevada is ordering all the first doses allocated to the State.

Governor's Office Update

- As COVID-19 Response Director Caleb Cage and the Governor have talked about before, back on January 8, the State announced that Gov had convened a group of some of the best and brightest problem solvers in the State to start tearing down barriers around the vaccination distribution.
- The State team, including the experts from DHHS, Division of Emergency Management, the Nevada National Guard and so many more have done incredible work to help get local sites up and running. The Governor tasked them with reviewing what is working right now, current challenges, and what can be done to as a State to solve any issues moving forward.
- When the Governor put this effort together, Nevada was administering approximately 40% of doses received. Yesterday, the State announced it has administered 76% of doses received. Because of that hard work, and less than one month later, Nevada is leading our FEMA Region, competing against states like California and

Arizona. That doesn't happen overnight and without a coordinated focus.

- Just like with testing and so many other areas of the state's response, this wouldn't be possible without the support and operational expertise of the Nevada National Guard.
- The State continues to strengthen partnerships at the local level and provide as much support as possible. As mentioned yesterday, the State requested and received 130 personnel from FEMA and HHS to assist local leaders with vaccinations and data entry.
- The State will continue to identify problem areas throughout the state and work with proven local leaders to course correct and make sure systems work.
- The goal at the State level is to ensure there is as much support as possible for local agencies and help manage the process to ensure it not only runs efficiently, but fairly.
- Equity must be a key driver in the vaccination campaign. There have been challenges with equitable distribution to communities at the local level and the State is working with local leaders to ensure equity remains a core component of the program.
- A way to reach equity is to ensure the NV Vaccine Playbook is followed. That's particularly important for those in positions of power and authority. In order to ensure this process is fair, the State is relying on those implementing vaccines to do everything possible to follow the vaccination prioritization lanes.
- Equity also requires an intentional effort to reach every community and not create a scenario where those who have been

disproportionately impacted by this virus are left behind. This can be more difficult, it might take longer, but it is worth it and will remain a priority for the State.

- The Governor has mentioned that returning to in-person learning as safely as possible is one of his top priorities.
- Given this important priority, the Governor directed his team and agency leaders, including DHHS, State Superintendent Jhone Ebert to meet with CCSD and other local leaders in Clark to help provide any support needed in the lead up to Mar. 1. NV Dept. Of Education and other state agencies have been hands on in helping other districts navigate reopening, and it is important CCSD knows the state is here to assist in any way possible.
- The Governor understands the concerns our educators and parents may have, and he has directed us to ensure the district has state support on all critical safety areas – including contact tracing, testing, and more. We want to provide as much support as possible to decrease risk and increase safety. Our initial conversations have been productive and the State is leaning in.
- The State is encouraging CCSD and SNHD to work together to prioritize the educators, specifically those who will be returning to the classroom in the near future as they get through the educator group with the doses available from the federal government. Again, this is in line with the existing playbook prioritization.
- The State is continuing these meetings between State and local partners to do everything we can to support the safest possible return.

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