



CLARK COUNTY DISTRICT G NEWSLETTER

Clark County Commissioner Jim Gibson



Hello District G Residents,

Earlier this week, Governor Sisolak unveiled the State of Nevada's long-term mitigation strategy in response to COVID-19, Road to Recovery: Moving to a New Normal. Our efforts in Clark County are imperative to our success in the State of Nevada's new mitigation strategy. To be successful, I can't stress enough the importance of social distancing, wearing face coverings and testing to help slow the spread of COVID-19. With that said, I am very happy to announce new COVID-19 testing sites at a few of Clark County's Community Centers including Whitney Community Center. Testing will be available at Whitney Community Center on Thursdays, August 6th, 13th and 20th. A list of locations, dates and times is included in this newsletter. In addition, testing operations at UNLV have moved indoors to Thomas and Mack Center and will be opening the second week of August. Boulder City has also extended their testing to every Tuesday through the end of August. To find testing locations nearest to you, please visit Nevada Health Response's website at <https://nvhealthresponse.nv.gov/find-covid-19-testing-in-nevada/>.

Our Virtual Job Fair is just around the corner! I will be co-hosting the Virtual Job Fair on Friday, August 7th from 9:00 to 11:00 am with Congresswoman Susie Lee and Councilwoman Michelle Romero. Please make sure to register at www.nvcareercenter.org/henderson2020. This is a great opportunity to connect with employers in Henderson while still social distancing. The job fair is virtual but the opportunities are real!

I know that many families are starting to prepare for a back to school that will look dramatically different this year. I have included in this newsletter Governor Sisolak's most recent directive to further support a safe, efficient, and equitable return to school buildings for the 2020-21 school year. Also included in this newsletter is information about Clark County's Small Business Grant deadline extension, the State of Nevada's rental assistance program, 2020 Census information and changes to Nevada's DMV license renewal.

Finally, the Clark County Government Center has new operating hours. The new hours of operations will be Monday through Thursday, 7:30 a.m. to 5:30 p.m., closed on Fridays. Compressing most of Clark County's operations from five days a week to four days a week aligns with those of the cities of Las Vegas, Henderson, Boulder City, and N. Las Vegas. As always, do not hesitate to email us at ccdigt@clarkcountynv.gov or call our office at (702) 455-5561 with any questions or concerns. You can also follow us on Facebook at www.facebook.com/jim.gibson, Instagram [@CommishJGibson](https://www.instagram.com/CommishJGibson) or Twitter [@CommishJGibson](https://twitter.com/CommishJGibson).



Jim

Free COVID-19 Neighborhood Testing Events Offered at Three County Senior Centers

As part of Clark County's efforts to offer more COVID-19 testing in neighborhoods in the East Las Vegas Valley, the County is partnering with the Southern Nevada Health District and Guardian Elite Medical Services (GEMS) and Global Medical Response ambulance companies to offer testing events at three senior center locations the first three weeks of August.

No appointment is needed for the testing. The walk-in sites will have 200 self-administered nasal swab tests available at each testing location on each date on a first-come, first-served basis, starting at 8 a.m. Testing is open to anyone, including children. Patients are asked to wear face coverings, and to bring photo identification and provide their phone numbers. All results, positive or negative, are reported to the Health District. The schedule for upcoming testing dates and locations is as follows:

- Tuesdays Aug. 4, Aug. 11, Aug. 18 – Cora Coleman Senior Center, 2100 Bonnie Lane, 89156, near East Lake Mead Boulevard and Sloan.
- Wednesdays, Aug. 5, Aug. 12, Aug 19 – Parkdale Senior Center, 3200 Ferndale St., 89121, near Desert Inn Road and Lamb Boulevard
- Thursdays, Aug. 6, Aug. 13, Aug. 20 – Whitney Senior Center, 5712 Missouri Ave., 89122, near Boulder Highway and Tropicana Avenue.

"We are working to offer as much testing as we can throughout our community and especially in neighborhoods on the east side of the Las Vegas Valley where we are seeing some of the highest numbers of COVID-19 cases," said Clark County Commission Chairman Marilyn Kirkpatrick, whose district includes Cora Coleman. "We encourage residents to get tested, especially if they have symptoms or have been exposed to someone who has tested positive. It's best to err on the side of caution while you are awaiting your test results. Stay home as much as possible, wear face coverings in public and wash your hands often."

The type of testing available is polymerase chain reaction tests, better known as PCR tests, which show whether someone currently has COVID-19. Clark County has been working to expand testing resources on the east side of the Las Vegas Valley where there are larger populations of Hispanics and other communities of color facing disproportionate risks of contracting the virus.

"We want to offer testing in neighborhood locations that are familiar to people and accessible," said Clark County Commissioner Tick Segerblom, whose district includes the Parkdale Senior Center. "It's not easy for everyone to go online to schedule a test or drive across town for an appointment. An important part of our community's efforts to fight this virus is to let people know we don't want them to be afraid to be tested, and if they or a family member tests positive, we will help them get the resources they need to stay safe and stay home."

Clark County's outreach efforts include working with community partners to launch a Spanish-language, education campaign called "Esta En Tus Manos" (It's in your hands), to provide more resources to the local Hispanic community about COVID-19. The initiative includes a website, estaentusmanosnevada.com, TV and radio PSAs, social media posts, billboards and outreach among a wide

network of community leaders, businesses and local organizations helping to support the effort. The campaign can be found on Facebook and Twitter via the handle [@EstaEnTusManosNevada](https://twitter.com/EstaEnTusManosNevada).

"These testing events are open to seniors who live near these facilities as well as anyone in the neighborhood who is seeking access to a convenient testing location," said Clark County Commissioner Jim Gibson, whose Commission district includes the Whitney Senior Center. "We also want to reach out directly to our Spanish-speaking friends and neighbors through our Esta En Tus Manos initiative in the language they know best. It's important for all of us to have the information we need to protect ourselves and our families during this pandemic, and to have access the resources we need to stay safe and keep our community as open as possible."

Since May 5, Clark County in partnership with the health district, UMC, the Nevada National Guard and local ambulance companies have conducted 125,925 COVID-19 tests at various locations throughout Southern Nevada. A calendar of testing events sponsored by the health district is available in English and Spanish on its website at www.SNHD.info/covid. The state of Nevada also has a COVID-19 test finding locator tool on its website at www.healthresponse.nv.gov that lists labs, pharmacies and other testing resources.

A new community-based COVID-19 testing site will open on Tuesday at Cashman Center, and is now accepting appointments online through UMC's website at www.umcsn.com. The site is located inside Exhibit Hall A on the north side of the facility off Washington Avenue at 850 N. Las Vegas Boulevard. Hours are 8 a.m. to 4 p.m. Tuesday through Saturday. Due to increased demand for testing, appointments are highly recommended to reduce wait times for patients. As much as possible, the public is encouraged to self-schedule appointments through UMC's website. Those with no online access or limited access may call UMC at (702) 383-2619 to schedule appointments. The Cashman site is open to adults, children and families, and has separate indoor areas to accommodate those who arrive with and without symptoms. While appointments are urged, a walk-up testing station will offer some tests each day to those who arrive on a first-come, first-served basis without appointments based on available supplies and staffing.

Patients receive test results from the provider that performed their COVID-19 test, and all results are reported to the health district. Officials are working to significantly increase contact tracing and disease investigation efforts to follow up with patients who test positive for the virus and their contacts. Those who receive phone calls, texts or email notifications of a positive test result from the health district are encouraged to follow self-isolation instructions to limit the spread of the virus.

COVID-19 symptoms include fever, cough and shortness of breath. People with general questions about COVID-19 can call the health district's Information Phone Line at (702) 759-INFO (4636), between the hours of 7 a.m. and 7 p.m. Anyone in need of social service support to self-isolate can contact Nevada 2-1-1 for resource referrals. Additionally, the Community Health Center offers a free telehealth service by phone or computer for uninsured patients regardless of their ability to pay. More information is available on the Community Health Center website: www.southernnevadahealthdistrict.org/southern-nevada-community-health-center. UMC also provides telehealth COVID-19 assessments for symptomatic patients, with health care providers offering referrals for testing at UMC Quick Care locations. Call (702) 383-1800 to schedule an appointment or visit UMC's website to learn more.

GET TESTED!

Stop the spread of COVID-19.

Cora Coleman Senior Center

2100 Bonnie Ln, Las Vegas, NV 89156
Tuesdays, August 4th, 11th, 18th - 8am

Parkdale Senior Center

3200 Ferndale St, Las Vegas, NV 89121
Wednesdays, August 5th, 12th, 19th - 8am

Whitney Senior Center

5712 Missouri Ave, Las Vegas, NV 89122
Thursdays, August 6th, 13th, 20th - 8am

- ✓ Testing is free
- ✓ No insurance required
- ✓ 200 tests per day administered on a first-come, first serve basis
- ✓ Call (702) 759-1000 with questions



Boulder City COVID-19 Testing Clinics

Boulder City, in partnership with the Southern Nevada Health District and Boulder City Hospital, will provide free COVID-19 nasal swab tests* for the community. No doctors orders are required.

By appointment only on Tuesdays:

August 4, August 11, August 18 and August 25, 2020

8:00 a.m. - 11:00 a.m.

Boulder City Fire Department

1101 Elm Street, Boulder City, NV 89005

Boulder City Paramedics and Boulder City Hospital Nurses will administer the nasal swab tests, which are shorter and far less invasive than the earlier tests. Patients must provide a name, address, and contact information in order to get the free testing.

Results take about one week. No doctors orders are required.

**YOU MUST BE A BOULDER CITY RESIDENT AND MAKE AN APPOINTMENT
TO BE TESTED:**

Call 702.293.9256 Monday through Thursday from

8:00 a.m. - 5:00 p.m. to make an appointment.

**Nasal swab tests determine if you currently have the virus; they are not blood tests to determine if you have antibodies.*



COVID-19 Testing Operations at UNLV Moved Indoors to Thomas & Mack Center

Clark County and UMC announced the testing operations have moved indoors to the Thomas & Mack Center's Strip View Pavilion, located on the northwest side of the facility off Tropicana Avenue and University Center Drive, and is scheduled to re-open during the second week of August.

Clark County and UMC are operating the site in partnership with the Nevada National Guard, UNLV and University Police Services. The testing site inside the Thomas & Mack Center will resume operations of 8 a.m. to 4 p.m. Tuesday through Saturday when it re-opens.

"Clark County's staff at the Fire Department and UMC along with Nevada National Guard have done an amazing job operating the UNLV drive-through site since it opened at the end of May," said Clark County Commission Chairman Marilyn Kirkpatrick. "The new indoor operation will allow us to move out of the summer heat into a more comfortable setting for patients."

The type of testing available at community testing sites is polymerase chain reaction tests, better known as PCR tests, which show whether someone currently has COVID-19. Due to increased demand for testing, appointments will continue to be highly recommended to reduce wait times for patients and maintain operational efficiency. Appointments at the new Thomas & Mack indoor location will soon be available through UMC. As much as possible the public is encouraged to self-schedule appointments online through UMC's website at www.umcsn.com. From UMC's home page, click on the "UMC COVID-19 Testing Center" banner and select the "Public" option from the drop-down menu and chose the proper testing location. Those with no online access or limited access may call UMC at (702) 383-2619 to schedule appointments. The Thomas & Mack site will have a walk-up testing station to offer tests each day to some people on a first-come, first served basis without appointments based on available supplies and staffing. It also will be designed to have separate areas to accommodate those who arrive with and without symptoms. The community testing sites are open to the public, including children.

"UNLV has been a tremendous community partner in providing a location in the center of the Las Vegas Valley that allows for convenient, accessible COVID-19 testing," said Clark County Commissioner Jim Gibson, whose Commission District includes UNLV. "Testing continues to be an important means for us to track the impact of the pandemic in our community. We encourage people to stay home if they develop symptoms. Additionally, it's important for all of us to continue to wear face coverings in public, avoid large crowds, and wash hands regularly."

UMC recently adjusted its COVID-19 testing policies to reflect the latest CDC guidance and ensure that patients at the highest risk maintain convenient access to testing. The updated protocols will help UMC reduce unnecessary repeat testing while prioritizing access for community members with symptoms of COVID-19 and those who have been exposed to the virus. Repeat testing following an initial positive result has not shown to be an effective tool in determining when patients can safely discontinue isolation. UMC will follow CDC

guidance by utilizing a time- and symptom-based strategy to determine when patients can discontinue isolation precautions. As a result of this guidance, UMC will no longer provide unnecessary follow-up tests after a positive result. To further reduce the number of unnecessary COVID-19 tests in the community, a patient with negative test results must wait 10 days before receiving another COVID-19 test from UMC. If community members develop symptoms of COVID-19 during this waiting period, they should seek medical care at a physician's office to determine the need for repeat testing. All patients who believe they have been exposed to the virus must continue to isolate at home during this waiting period. UMC has introduced a five-day waiting period for asymptomatic health care workers and first responders following negative test results, unless they develop symptoms of COVID-19 during the waiting period.

UMC asks community members to help the hospital prioritize the testing needs of symptomatic patients and those who have been exposed to confirmed positive patients. Whenever possible, UMC asks the public to please save the available public testing appointments for community members with symptoms of COVID-19 and those who have been exposed to the virus. Exposure is defined as spending 15 minutes or more within 6 feet of someone with an active COVID-19 infection, regardless of whether you or the other individual wore a face covering during the encounter. Community members should schedule their testing appointments five to seven days after being exposed to the virus. Testing prior to this time period may result in false negative results.

Since May 5, Clark County in partnership with the Southern Nevada Health District, UMC, the Nevada National Guard and local ambulance companies have conducted a total of 123,453 COVID-19 tests at various locations. The numbers include 103,878 tests at fixed community-based parking garage sites in Las Vegas and 19,575 mobile strike team tests throughout Southern Nevada at one and two-day testing events at schools, community centers and other locations. A calendar of testing events sponsored by the health district is available in English and Spanish on its website at www.SNHD.info/covid. The state of Nevada also has a COVID-19 test finding locator tool on its website at www.healthresponse.nv.gov that lists labs, pharmacies and other testing resources. Patients receive test results from the provider that performed their COVID-19 test, and all results, positive or negative are reported to the health district. Officials are working to significantly increase contact tracing and disease investigation efforts to follow up with patients who test positive for the virus and their contacts. Those who receive phone calls, texts or email notifications of a positive test result from the health district are encouraged to follow self-isolation instructions to limit the spread of the virus.

"Given the demand for testing and the longer amount of time it is taking to process test results from all providers, we recommend that people who believe they may have been exposed to the virus should begin staying home for 14 days out of an abundance of caution as they await test results," said Dr. Fermin Leguen, Acting Chief Health Officer of the Southern Nevada Health District. "This will help slow down the spread of COVID-19 in our community. We also recommend that anyone who begins experiencing severe symptoms such as shortness of breath or chest pains seek emergency medical attention immediately."

Those with general questions about COVID-19 can call the health district's Information Phone Line at (702) 759-INFO (4636), between the hours of 7 a.m. and 7 p.m. Anyone in need of social service support to self-isolate can contact Nevada 2-1-1 for resource referrals. Information

about COVID-19 resources also is available in Spanish through the “Esta En Tus Manos” (It’s in your hands) outreach initiative at estaentusmanosnevada.com. Additionally, the Community Health Center offers a free telehealth service by phone or computer for uninsured patients regardless of their ability to pay. More information is available on the Community Health Center website: www.southernnevadahealthdistrict.org/southern-nevada-community-health-center. UMC also provides telehealth COVID-19 assessments for symptomatic patients, with health care providers offering referrals for testing at UMC Quick Care locations. Call (702) 383-1800 to schedule an appointment or visit UMC’s website to learn more.

Small Business Grant Application Deadline Extended

The deadline for local small businesses to apply for up to \$15,000 in County grants has been extended to 11:59 p.m. on Tuesday, Aug. 11.

Local small business owners who have lost money because of the ongoing pandemic may qualify for the County’s Small Business Rental Assistance program, which provides up to \$10,000 to cover past-due rent, and/or the Small Business Protective Retrofit Grant, which will reimburse businesses up to \$5,000 for costs such as purchasing personal protective equipment for employees and installing no-touch doors and walk-up windows.

Information about the programs and the applications are online at www.ClarkCountyNV.gov/EconomicDevelopment. Applications must be submitted online.

“Many of our local small businesses have been hit the hardest by the pandemic,” Commissioner Michael Naft said. “These grant programs can provide a much-needed financial boost to help businesses get through this difficult time. Qualifying businesses employ our friends and neighbors and are the backbone of our economy.”

Qualified applicants will be in unincorporated Clark county, have a Clark County business license and 20 or fewer employees. Grant awards could be made in late August.

The County has partnered with the Nevada Small Business Development Center at UNLV to provide assistance to business owners who may need help with the application process. The center is online at www.unlv.edu/sbdc and can be reached at (702) 895-5019. These two grant programs follow the County’s Small Business Stabilization Grant, which will help local small businesses affected by coronavirus-related closures and restrictions. Applications for the stabilization grant were accepted last month. Altogether, the three grant programs could provide more than \$12 million to local small businesses. The funding for the grant programs comes from the federal Coronavirus Aid, Relief, and Economic Security (CARES) CARES Act. Business owners with legal questions not related to these grant applications may contact the Legal Aid Center of Southern Nevada at (702) 386-1070.

State of Nevada’s Residential Rental Assistance Program

After the first week of the State of Nevada’s rental assistance program, significant funds remain available for renters who have been financially impacted by the COVID-19 pandemic. Since the launch of the program last Monday, a total of 3,085 statewide applications had been submitted by tenants seeking assistance.

The CARES Housing Assistance Program is being administered by the Nevada Housing Division in coordination with Clark County, the Reno Housing Authority, and the Nevada Rural Housing Authority.

In Clark County, the program is being administered through a network of 14 community non-profits. As of July 24, 2020, 1,963 applications had been submitted amongst the various entities. The Reno Housing Authority has received 688 applications for rental assistance, while the Nevada Rural Housing Authority has received 434 applications.

The majority of applicants are requesting between two and three months of assistance to cover missed rental payments that occurred during the eviction moratorium. Payments are expected to start being dispersed to landlords over the next two weeks.

It is estimated that the State’s portion of the program will be able to cover 25,000 months of missed rent payments.

Tenants who have been financially impacted by COVID-19 and have missed rent payments are encouraged to visit housing.nv.gov to begin the application process. Applicants will be directed to the appropriate housing agency based on their county of residence. Upon successful completion of the application, tenants will be notified upon approval and funds will be disbursed directly to the tenant’s landlord. Funds will be provided on a first-come-first-serve basis.

More information about the program can be found in both ENGLISH and SPANISH or by calling 2-1-1.

CCSD Food Distribution sites to continue through August 21

The Clark County School District will continue to provide meals to students through August 21, 2020 at current food distribution sites. Meals at the majority of CCSD’s food distribution sites are served Monday - Friday 7 a.m. – 10 a.m. Free for any child 2 – 18 years old. To find a site near you or for times and locations of mobile food distribution sites, visit ccsd.nutrislice.com.

Additional information regarding Food Service for students after August 21 will be provided at a later time.

*The Job Fair is Virtual...
but the Opportunities are Real*



Virtual JOB FAIR

EMPLOYERS HIRING IN THE HENDERSON AREA

FRIDAY
AUGUST 7, 2020
9:00 AM TO 11:00 AM

HOW IT WORKS

- Employers located in the Henderson area
- **PRE-REGISTER AT:**
nvcareercenter.org/henderson2020
- Once you are registered, you will receive an access code to participate and learn more about job opportunities and ask each employer your questions
- Questions? Call 702.822.4200
- Hosted by: Congresswoman Susie Lee, Commissioner Jim Gibson and Councilwoman Michelle Romero



Governor Sisolak Issues Directive in Support of Safe Return to School Buildings

Governor Steve Sisolak signed Emergency Directive 028 to further support a safe, efficient, and equitable return to school buildings for the 2020-21 school year.

In response to recommendations from the Medical Advisory Team, the Directive shifts the minimum physical distancing requirements from six to three feet for pre-K, kindergarten, and middle school students in accordance with the recommendations by the American Association of Pediatrics. The physical distancing minimum for staff and high school students remains unchanged at six feet.

In addition, the Directive sets in place a process to allow variances from certain health and safety protocols in areas where community COVID-19 transmission rates are sufficiently low, and it is determined the variance will not endanger students or staff. This shifts from a "one size fits all" approach to school reopening in recognition of the different circumstances affecting communities across Nevada. Variance requests are subject to review by the Nevada Department of Education and approval by the State Chief Medical Officer.

"Throughout our response to COVID-19, the health and safety of our students, staff, and families is always the priority," said Governor Sisolak. "I know that the Nevada Department of Education and the local districts have worked diligently to evaluate the available guidance and recommendations to create appropriate education plans to our students through whatever means are most appropriate in their local district. The State will continue to monitor the impact of COVID-19 in Nevada and stands ready to provide support or intervention when necessary."

"Responding to the ever-changing circumstances of the pandemic requires us to be nimble," said State Superintendent Jhone Ebert. "In all our work, the Nevada Department of Education seeks to recognize the distinct needs of each district and school and to support them accordingly. Providing flexibility while supporting our local leaders in maintaining safe learning environments is more important than ever in light of COVID-19."

Other key aspects of the directive are as follows:

- Makes face coverings mandatory for all K-12 students and all school staff. Exemptions may be approved by school building leaders if medical conditions are documented by a medical professional.
- Makes face coverings mandatory, without exceptions, for all other adults in school settings, including parents, vendors, volunteers, visitors, and others.
- Requires students and staff to follow quarantine and isolation protocols and guidelines when a positive COVID-19 case, presumptive case, or contact with a presumptive case occurs.

"Wearing a face covering is one of the simplest and most important tools we have to protect against COVID-19," said Dr. Ihsan Azzam, Nevada's Chief Medical Officer who also serves as the lead for the Medical Advisory Team. "Making face coverings mandatory for all students and adults in K-12 school buildings is critical to preventing the spread of illness."

The Directive also carries forward aspects of distance education flexibility from the 2019-20 school year, including the option to use paper correspondence to provide equitable opportunities to learn at a distance for students who may not have devices or Internet connectivity. Further, the Directive reinstates existing laws and regulations on distance learning. This allows approved programs to continue to operate while new providers can apply. Districts and charter schools offering Path Forward Programs of Distance Education are exempt from distance education regulations and will operate in accordance with guidance previously issued by the Nevada Department of Education.

Finally, the Directive ensures continued access to Nevada Ready! State Pre-Kindergarten programs by providing early childhood education providers the flexibility to implement schedules that allow for social distancing without having to disenroll students or sacrifice per-pupil funding.

U.S. Highway 95 Nightly Lane Closures at Tropicana Avenue August 6-9 in Clark County

The Nevada Department of Transportation (NDOT) will be closing two travel lanes along U.S. Highway 95 at Tropicana Avenue in Clark County from 7 p.m. until 7 a.m. nightly, starting the evening of August 6 and concluding the morning of August 10. The northbound lanes will be closed during the first two nights followed by the southbound lanes the subsequent evenings.

The temporary closures are needed to repair freeway bridge joints, which enable the structure to safely expand and contract, thereby providing a small amount of flex for weather, seismic events and dynamic vehicle loading. Joints are integral to bridge longevity, allowing the structure to breathe and prevent bending and breakage under extreme conditions. Las Vegas Paving is the general contractor.

Motorists should use caution while travelling through the work zone, heed construction signage, and take alternate detour routes, if possible. NDOT works with Waze to inform the public about planned highway restrictions, but unscheduled construction changes, closures and restrictions are possible due to weather or other factors. For the latest state highway conditions, visit nvroads.com or call 511 before driving.

NDOT and its contractors continue vital highway construction and maintenance activities upkeeping Nevada's transportation system for essential travel and supply chain deliveries. The department actively practices COVID-19-related public health and safety protocols, including social distancing of six feet or more and restricting groups to 10 or less, thereby keeping our team, families and communities safe and connected.

Census Bureau to Email Households to Encourage Response to the 2020 Census

The U.S. Census Bureau announced that it will begin emailing households in low-responding areas to encourage them to respond to the 2020 Census.

Millions of emails will be sent this week and then grow in numbers and continue into September. These emails supplement a final campaign reminding people to respond to the 2020 Census on their own, as census takers begin asking households to respond to the census.

The messages alert households in low-response areas that time is running out and their response to the 2020 Census is important for their communities. The email messages will invite people to respond online at 2020census.gov.

People who receive the email and haven't already responded should click on the link provided and complete the census online. It's easy, safe and important.

The emails will go to all households that the Census Bureau has contact information for in census block groups with a response rate lower than 50%. This will include households who may have already responded. In total, the Census Bureau expects to email more than 20 million households in these low-responding areas.

The email messages will come from 2020census@subscriptions.census.gov and will give recipients the option to opt out of receiving future messages. The Census Bureau is also considering sending text messages to areas that have low response.

The Census Bureau's recent success with contacting households by email to participate in the Household Pulse Survey prompted the agency to add these methods to support the 2020 Census. This contact method will help increase response rates and reduce the need for in-person follow-up.

The Census Bureau is continuing to review the use of text messages and will make an announcement prior to deploying that outreach. In addition to emailing households, the Census Bureau is increasing other outreach efforts during one last push to encourage everyone to respond to the census online, by phone or by mail. The Census Bureau recently announced that it has launched Mobile Questionnaire Assistance, a program that offers assistance with responding at locations such as grocery stores and pharmacies in low-responding areas.

Additionally, the Census Bureau has expanded its paid advertising—launching a series of new advertisements aimed at increasing online response and expanding to a total of 45 non-English languages receiving some level of paid media support.

Households have until October 31 to respond to the 2020 Census. However, census takers have begun following up with households that haven't responded yet in select areas and will begin following up with households nationwide in August.

DMV to Offer Most Driver's License and ID Card Renewals Online and by Mail This Fall

Nevada motorists who have been unable to make an appointment at DMV offices before their expiration date will benefit from two new initiatives announced by the Department of Motor Vehicles today.

Beginning this fall, most Nevadans will be able to renew their driver's license or ID card via the alternative services of online or mail. Additionally, drivers 65 and older, who have to renew in person, have been granted a one-year extension on driver's license renewals that is effective immediately.

The two new measures will allow approximately 75,000 Nevadans whose license or ID expires this year to avoid a visit to a DMV office during the COVID-19 pandemic.

"Enabling drivers to skip the trip to the DMV not only helps them, it will help the DMV serve those who need car registrations or other services much more quickly," said DMV Director Julie Butler. "Alternate license renewals will also have a lasting impact on the DMV as about 100,000 Nevadans will be eligible each year."

Governor Steve Sisolak signed emergency regulations to enact the new measures July 27. The DMV will move forward with public hearings to make the new regulations permanent.

Under the details of alternate renewals, Nevadans who hold a license or ID card that is valid for eight years will be eligible to renew using alternate services every other time, meaning they will have to visit a DMV office to renew in person only once every 16 years. Fees remain unchanged. Renewed cards will be mailed using the customer's existing photograph.

Customers who are not eligible are those who hold cards with a term of less than eight years, including instruction permit holders, immigrants with a limited-term license or ID, driver authorization card holders, those with certain medical conditions and sex offenders.

Drivers age 65 and older must renew in person every four years but seniors who hold an eight-year identification card are eligible for the alternate renewals.

Under the one-year extension for senior drivers, drivers are still required to renew on time if possible. The extension is to allow time to schedule an appointment. Drivers will be exempt from late fees for one year.

Drivers should print and carry an extension letter from the DMV website, dmv.nv.com, until they have successfully renewed their license or identification card. New licenses will not be issued and the expiration date will not be updated in the driver record.

DMV field services offices continue to operate at reduced capacity due to the COVID-19 social distancing and building occupancy requirements. The offices in the Las Vegas area and Reno are accepting customers with appointments only. Movement permits, license plate surrenders and vehicle inspections are available without an appointment. Rural offices serve local residents only on a walk-in basis.

Nevadans who need DMV services are always encouraged to visit the Department's website first. The DMV offers more than two dozen online services.

DHHS Completes Upgrade to Reporting System

The Nevada Department of Health and Human Services implemented an upgrade to the State's Electronic Laboratory Reporting system to help handle ongoing reporting challenges and the regularly increasing volume of reports transmitted to the State.

This upgrade will allow the computer system to process results submitted by individual labs up to seven times faster than before, which will provide the State and the public more timely numbers as it relates to how many COVID-19 tests Nevada is conducting per day and how many tests are coming back positive.

Similar to other systems in the State, the COVID-19 pandemic has put a strain on the system, which was never built to handle such volume of tests reported by a large number of laboratories. In 2019, there were a total of 35,821 records of all the reportable conditions that came into Nevada's public health system. The system now sees that quantity of lab reports in less than a week with COVID-19.

The launch of the new upgrade began Wednesday morning, allowing the system to process all lab results reported to the State throughout the day Wednesday and to address the results transmitted to the State this week that have been backlogged in the previous version of the system.

As a result, the State is reporting more than 15,000 tests today, with more than 1,200 new positive cases. It is important to note that not all the tests were conducted in one day, but that the State system is now able to more rapidly capture test results reported by individual labs.

As a reminder, laboratories are expected to process COVID-19 results as fast as possible, notify patients and notify the State.

The system upgrade does not increase turnaround time in the labs running the tests themselves, but does provide a more timely transmittal of results.

The State continues to work with local and community partners to increase the capacity to run tests faster in labs and to inform patients of results. Once a specimen has been processed in a lab, the patient has been notified and the State has the lab results, the State can begin the contact tracing process.

Questions will be addressed at the daily noon call for media, led by Nevada's COVID-19 Response Director Caleb Cage and Julia Peek, Deputy Administrator, Division of Public and Behavioral Health, Community Health Services.

Today, Director Cage and Deputy Administrator Peek will also be joined by Mark Pandori, Nevada Chief of Testing; Director, Nevada State Public Health Laboratory; Associate Professor of Pathology and Laboratory Medicine at the University of Nevada, Reno School of Medicine.

Gov. Sisolak, Nevada Health Response Team Launch Long-Term Response Plan

Governor Steve Sisolak and the Nevada Health Response team unveiled a new long-term mitigation strategy for the State of Nevada to help provide predictability and stability moving forward. The plan was developed recognizing the State of Nevada and the nation are still in response mode to the COVID-19 pandemic and will be for the foreseeable future. The virus is still infecting people and is likely to do so for the months ahead until a vaccine is developed.

"This is a natural evolution in the State's response, and one that recognizes the need for a deliberate and predictable response to the protracted crisis of a global pandemic," said Gov. Sisolak.

The State developed a sustainable, targeted response model, one that will allow Nevada to utilize all available state and county assets in this response and recovery effort, maximize consistency and accountability, and prioritize the communication of the state's most accurate data to the public and to decision makers.

A copy of the mitigation plan, Road to Recovery: Moving to a New Normal is provided in the following pages. The plan and other supporting documents are available online at nvhealthresponse.nv.gov.



ROAD TO RECOVERY: Moving to a New Normal

August 3, 2020



Road to Recovery: Moving to a New Normal

The State of Nevada remains in the response stage to the COVID-19 pandemic and will be for the foreseeable future. To be successful, Nevada has developed a sustainable response model, one that will allow the Administration to utilize all available state and county assets in this response and recovery effort, maximize consistency and accountability, and prioritize the communication of the State's most accurate data to the public and to decisionmakers. This is a natural evolution in the State's response, and one that recognizes the need for a deliberate and predictable response to the protracted crisis of a global pandemic.

The plan outlined here provides for these considerations. First, it recognizes the Governor's intent to protect essential capacities and capabilities for addressing this crisis while also protecting vulnerable populations. Second, it provides a structured and predictable approach for political subdivisions in Nevada to understand how State officials are interpreting county-level data and to see what mitigation measures will be put in place to protect the health and safety of Nevadans. And third, it creates a coordinating body and timeline for the rest of the year to assess data and communicate restrictions to local governments.

This first component, the critical statewide metrics, allow the Governor to monitor the elements that are essential to Nevada's overall response. They are key capacities, such as hospital beds, ventilators, and access to personal protective equipment (PPE); they include monitoring all three elements of statewide testing capacity: specimen collection, laboratory testing, and disease investigation (case investigation and contact tracing); and these metrics include the State's ability to prevent outbreaks as they occur and to protect vulnerable populations. These metrics have been essential indicators to decision makers throughout the State since the Governor unveiled his initial plan, and they remain critical today.

The second component, monitoring county criteria, establishes a key innovation that will allow statewide partners to better respond for the long term. Since the beginning of Nevada's response to this pandemic, statewide decision makers have relied on daily data. While these data have improved over time, they have not always been true and current as of their date of release, and therefore, they have not always presented the most reliable depiction of the trends in our state. Nevada will continue to work to improve reporting systems and refine our data on hand, however, the best way to proceed is to lengthen the periods of reporting key data.

Through this plan, counties will all be assessed according to the same data, and all with expanded timelines, as outlined below. These data will be assessed against three criteria,



Road to Recovery: Moving to a New Normal

and decisions will be made regarding increased, static, or decreased mitigation levels for each county based on the current trajectory of the severity and exposure of the virus. Based on the critical statewide metrics described above, the Governor may also impose or relax additional restrictions in a variety of cases.

The final component, ongoing communication, coordination, and collaboration is intended to ensure that this plan can be implemented in a way that meets statewide needs. It establishes the key agencies and leaders at the State and local level and provides a timeline for carrying out this plan. This is intended to ensure that the State's effort is coordinated and that decisions are communicated with as much advance notice and community input as possible.

Together, the three components of this plan will help Nevada continue to evolve and improve its ongoing response over the long term. It will ensure that Nevada's effort remains federally supported, state managed, and locally executed. And it will ensure that we continue to protect the health and safety of all Nevadans.

1: Critical statewide metrics

There are several critical metrics that track statewide resources, efforts, and populations, regardless of which county or tribal nation that they may call home. If there is an elevated risk impacting these metrics in Nevada, the Governor may issue statewide directives to ensure these critical services remain intact.

These metrics have guided Nevada's efforts since the beginning of the statewide response, and they include:

- Hospital Capacity
- Access to Personal Protective Equipment
- Testing Capacity
- Case Investigation and Contact Tracing
- Protection of Vulnerable Populations
- Enforcement

These critical statewide metrics will also be used to evaluate the transmission risk and situation in each county on an ongoing basis, along with the county criteria, which are outlined below.

2: County Criteria

Background



Road to Recovery: Moving to a New Normal

Nevada's counties are diverse in many ways and have been impacted by COVID differently. To ensure that each county is assessed for elevated disease transmission, the Nevada Health Response Team, a collaboration between the Governor's Office, Department of Health and Human Services, and the Division of Emergency Management, have created a county tracker. This tracker will be updated at least weekly to monitor progress.

Understanding the Data Being Monitored

When reviewing the data, a few assumptions should be noted, such as:

- COVID positive case rates among state and federal prison inmates and staff are also included in the disease transmission data.
- Testing data may help explain or provide context for interpreting the elevated disease transmission data.
- County Testing Positivity Rate may not be accurate due to lack of reporting of patient county of residence by providers.

Elevated Disease Transmission

The 30-day case rate and 14-day testing positivity rate are used to assess the level of COVID-19 burden in a county. For each measure, the higher the number, the more a county is impacted by COVID-19. However, it is important to look at this data in the context of average number of tests per day, as well as who is being tested. In general, higher number of tests per day indicates more widespread testing for COVID-19 beyond individuals who have symptoms. This means that more individuals who either do not have COVID-19 or have COVID-19 but are asymptomatic will be tested. As a result, as the number of tests per day increases, the case rate may increase (due to the identification of asymptomatic cases) and the testing positivity rate may decrease (due to more testing among individuals who do not have COVID-19). Accordingly, the specific criteria for ongoing assessment of counties are as follows:

1. **Average number of tests per day (per 100,000) < 150.** The average number of molecular tests resulted during the previous week in a county, divided by the number of people living in the county. This number is then multiplied by 100,000 to control for varying populations in counties. Due to reporting delay, this is reported over a 14-day period with a 7-day lag. Counties that average fewer than 150 tests per day will meet this criterion.
2. **Case rate (per 100,000) > 200.** The total number of cases diagnosed and reported over a 30-day period divided by the number of people living in the county. This number is then multiplied by 100,000 to control for varying populations in

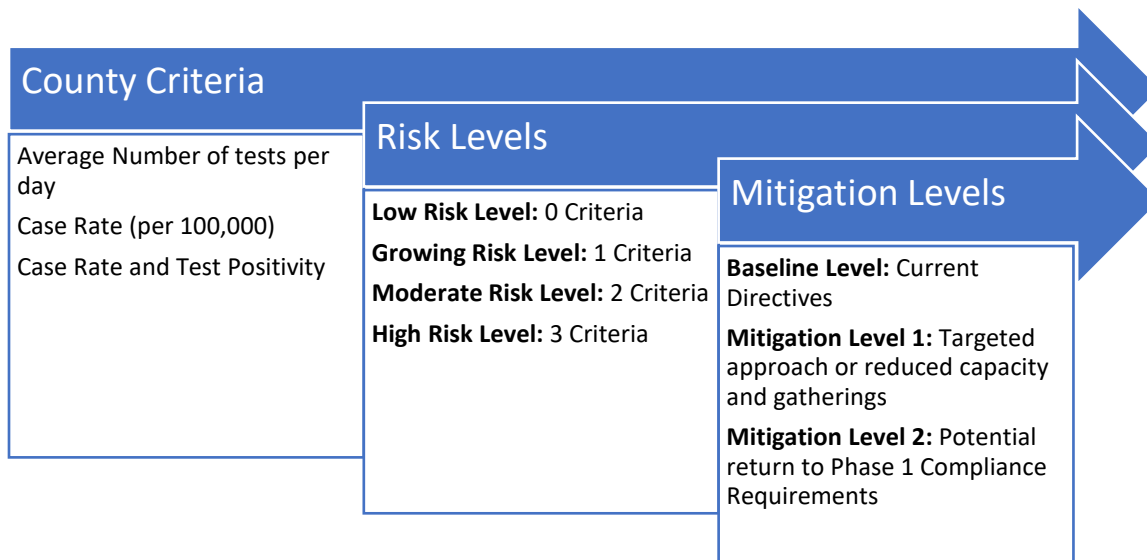


Road to Recovery: Moving to a New Normal

counties. Counties with a case rate greater than 200 per 100,000 will meet this criterion.

3. **Case rate (per 100,000) > 50 AND testing positivity > 7.0%.** This is reported over a 14-day period with a 7-day lag. The total number of confirmed cases (identified via positive molecular tests) divided by the total number of unique people tested (molecular only). This number is then multiplied by 100 to get a percentage. Due to reporting delay (which may be different between positive and negative tests), there is a 7-day lag. Counties with a test positivity > 7.0% paired with case rate greater than 50 per 100,000 will meet this criterion.

A county is flagged for elevated disease transmission if it meets two of the three criteria in consecutive weeks. As described in greater detail in the section below, a county experiencing increased risk with respect to meeting two or more of these criteria for two or more consecutive weeks will enter an assessment and review process with the state that could result in changing the county's mitigation level. As shown below, *the criteria determine the risk level and the risk level determine the mitigation level.*



It is important to note that these criteria are slightly different than the similar criteria used in determining the outcomes provided in Directive 027, which closed bars in certain counties. These changes were driven by input from statewide partners and refinements determined by members of the Nevada Health Response team. Due to these changes, the jurisdictions meeting two or three criteria have changed.



County-level Implementation and Actions

The level of mitigation that may be required in each county is determined by both the degree of severity and the duration at the level (growth and reduction of severity). However, there may be items of special consideration or mitigating circumstances that impact the level of mitigation requested or required of the county. For example, if specific data is available that indicates the exposure risk in a particular county is due to a specific business or type of business or is isolated in a particular region within one community, mitigation may apply to those entities or areas only.

If a county is found to be at a higher level the first week, they will enter a warning week. During the warning week a county or entity will be notified of the criteria used to determine the risk, and following that there will be a consultation with that entity or jurisdiction as well as a discussion regarding next steps that could be taken and any available public health assistance from the State. The Local Empowerment Advisory Committee (LEAP) may also be involved in the consultation.

- **Severity of Exposure Risk**

- **Low Risk Level:** County met 0 criteria
- **Growing Risk Level:** County met 1 criterion
- **Moderate Risk Level:** County met 2 criteria
- **High Risk Level:** County met 3 criteria

- **Duration**

The speed at which mitigation levels may increase is implemented at a shorter duration than relaxing mitigation levels. Therefore, increases in mitigation measure may occur within a week or two if the trend is showing increased spread but lessening or relaxing of those mitigation levels will be reviewed at longer intervals.

- Static Example
 - A county remains at a Low or Growing Risk Level: Remain at Baseline Mitigation Level
- Enhanced Mitigation Example
 - Week 1 at Same or Increased Risk Level: Warning Week at Baseline Mitigation Level
 - Week 2 at Same or Increased Risk Level: Mitigation Level 1
 - Week 5 at Same or Increased Risk Level: Mitigation Level 2
- Relaxing of Mitigation Example (if county started at Mitigation Level 2)
 - Week 1 at Same or Decreased Risk Level, with a score of less than 2: Planning Week



Road to Recovery: Moving to a New Normal

- Week 3 at Same or Decreased Risk Level, with a score of less than 2: Reduction of Mitigation Level by 1 (to Mitigation of Level 1)
 - Week 5 at Same or Decreased Risk Level, with a score of less than 2: Reduction of Mitigation to Baseline Mitigation Level
- Items of Special Consideration and Mitigating Circumstances Related to Clusters/Outbreaks may include, but are not limited to, the following items:
 - COVID-19 conditions in regional geography and tribal nations
 - Cases in institutional settings
 - Long-term Care Facilities (residents)
 - Prisons (inmates)
 - Cases among families/households

Mitigation Level

Mitigation levels may be targeted to specific industries, businesses, or communities based on findings during case investigation and contact tracing and other pertinent details affecting the disease progression locally. These mitigation levels are recommended to reduce the spread of infection and may be modified based on state and county consultation.

- **Baseline Mitigation Level:**
 - Maintain Statewide Directive Compliance
- **Mitigation Level 1**
 - Continue Statewide Directive Compliance and
 - **Either** take targeted action to address spread based on data
 - **Or** high-risk settings where face coverings may need to be removed (food establishment, pool, gym/fitness location, and bar) may move to 25% capacity
 - **And** public gatherings cannot exceed 25 people
- **Mitigation Level 2:**
 - Continue Statewide Directive Compliance and
 - **Either** take targeted action to address spread based on data
 - **Or** state or local business licenses may be removed for targeted businesses if outbreak at those locations cannot be controlled
 - **And** potential return to Phase 1 recommendations, which may include closure of high-risk businesses to curbside and delivery only services,



Road to Recovery: Moving to a New Normal

closure of pools, curfew provisions imposed and further reductions of public gatherings

NOTE: Schools fall under a different criterion than the mitigation requirements noted above.

Targeted Approach

This new approach will ensure the State, in coordination with each county, can assess all available data, evaluate key metrics, and make timely decisions based on the disease burden and transmission risk in each region throughout Nevada. Reviewing this critical data and metrics such as status of hospitalizations, disease investigation reports, and more will allow the State to better understand the capacity of each county to respond and then take targeted actions to help mitigate the spread. The goal of this targeted approach is to address identified risk areas and take action, and to avoid broad-based closures or limitations that could harm businesses who may not be the cause of spread.

In the case that there is not enough data or information needed to take a targeted approach in a county, or if a county is not collaborating with the State in a productive manner, the Task Force and/or the Governor maintain the right to take action and implement mitigation measures in accepted high risk settings.

4. Ongoing Communication, Coordination, and Collaboration

COVID-19 Response Task Force

State Agency Accountability

A task force will be established to support this concept and to ensure statewide adoption. At a minimum, it will be made up of heads of key state agencies, private sector representatives, and local representatives. This task force will be charged with ensuring accountability for state-level efforts, coordinating essential activities between departments, and providing a sustainable model for receiving and sharing data and vetting proposals and recommendations.

The task force will be chaired by the Governor's COVID-19 Response Director and representatives from the following agencies should be appointed by the chair:

1. Department of Health and Human Services
2. Department of Business and Industry
3. Division of Emergency Management
4. Department of Education
5. Nevada National Guard
6. Governor's Office of Finance



Road to Recovery: Moving to a New Normal

7. Nevada Hospital Association
8. Nevada Association of Counties
9. Nevada League of Cities
10. Nevada State Public Health Laboratory
11. Other necessary members at the determination of the chair

To ensure the success of this approach, the task force shall perform the following duties:

1. Meet on at least a weekly basis
2. Provide a current situation report on COVID-19 in Nevada, including weekly case numbers and county-level analysis
3. Provide an overview of the COVID-19 response effort in Nevada, including enforcement numbers from throughout the state and other findings
4. Assess county status per these guidelines and make decisions for actions to be taken over the next week
5. Collaborate with county representatives to determine best methods for reducing the community burden of COVID-19

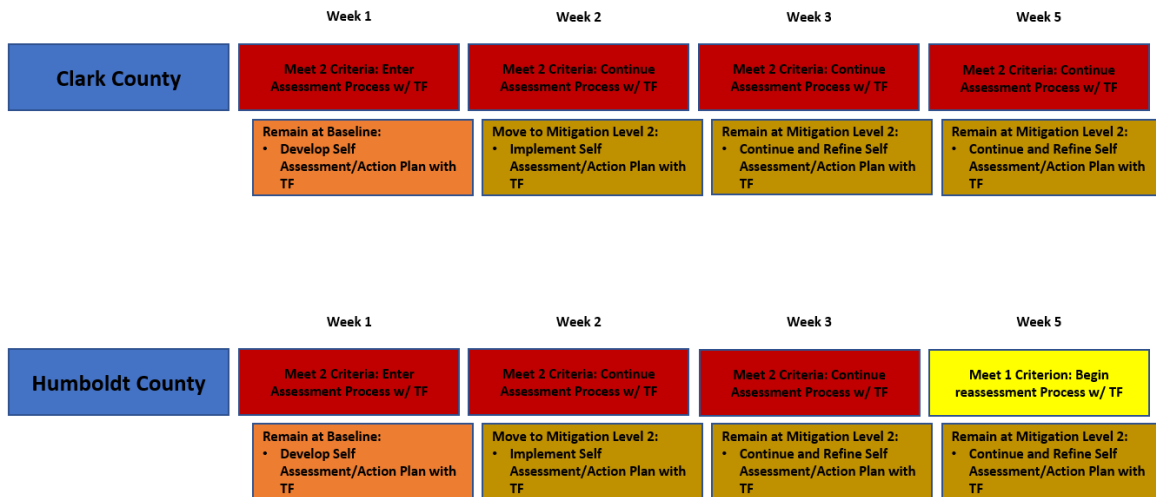
County Accountability

Following the weekly meetings of the task force, the Governor's COVID-19 Response Director and related team will reach out to county leadership and inform them of the State's assessment of county exposure risk, based on county criteria data and critical statewide metrics. Counties not experiencing elevated COVID-19 risk will be informed that they will remain at the Baseline Mitigation Level. Counties experiencing elevated COVID-19 risk will enter the state assessment process with the task force.

These counties in the state assessment process will be asked to complete a local risk assessment and action plan based on the Critical Statewide Metrics and provide them to the task force; the task force will evaluate the risk assessment and action plan based on state and federal data; and once approved by the task force, a local strike team will be responsible for implementing the action plan and reporting metrics to the task force. An example of this process for two counties is provided below:



Road to Recovery: Moving to a New Normal



Additionally, during the assessment process, counties will be asked to include details on activities, industries, or businesses experiencing the greatest reports of possible exposure sites within the region. This includes the broad categories to support more public messaging efforts (ex: reminder to food establishments to require face coverings until food is served if there is an increased spread in restaurants). Additionally, the counties will be provided a list of the businesses or locations named through the disease investigation process. If there are notable outliers where infection seems to be spreading at disproportionately high rates, the local strike team consisting of applicable city, county, state, or other regulatory entities that have oversight over the business or location will be deployed to conduct a thorough investigation of the business and develop a mitigation plan for that business based on the findings of the investigation.

###