



**NEVADA
HEALTH
RESPONSE**

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COVID-19 Press Bulletin for 12-21-2020

Carson City, NV — Today, Caleb Cage, Nevada COVID-19 Response Director and Julia Peek, Deputy Administrator of Community Health Services were joined by Brenda Scolari, Director of the Nevada Department of Tourism and Cultural Affairs to provide updates on Nevada's ongoing COVID-19 response and discuss the State's efforts to support Nevada's tourism industry and traveling safely, 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 number of tests per day per 100,000.

- Due to the holiday, there will not be a COVID-19 Mitigation and Management Task Force meeting this week.
- As of today, Nevada has logged 205,884 cases, with the 14-day rolling average of daily cases being 2,049
- The state has completed a total of 1,959,658 molecular tests since the beginning of COVID-19.
- The test positivity rate over the last 14 days is 19.7%.
 - While the test positivity rate over the last 14 days is decreasing, the State Office of Analytics believe this modest reduction is due to the Stay at Home 2.0 and the pause restrictions.
 - Unfortunately, the modest reduction seen now is not expected to continue as Christmas and New Year-expected surges will overlap, resulting in a surge on top of a surge which may exceed this large increase in rates and numbers that have been experienced after the Thanksgiving holiday.
- Nevadans should be reminded of the [current restrictions in place that are meant to help mitigate these surges](#).
- The Nevada Hospital Association reports there are currently 1,996 COVID-19 hospitalizations (1,807 confirmed; 189 suspected)
- More information on hospitalization trends can be found on the [Nevada Hospital Association](#) website.
- [Western States Scientific Safety Review Workgroup confirmed the Moderna vaccine is Safe and Efficacious](#).
 - 8,000 doses of vaccine from Moderna have been delivered with more to come later in the week.

- Approximately 10,000 doses from Pfizer have been administered and submitted to Web IZ.
- DHHS is reviewing the ACIP recommendations from this weekend and the program is working on an update to the Playbook to meet the needs of Nevadans

Brenda Scolari, Director of the Nevada Department of Tourism and Cultural Affairs (DCTA) provided an overview of initiatives and programs and how they have been adjusted during COVID-19.

- The department is comprised of the Nevada Division of Tourism, also known as Travel Nevada; as well as the Nevada Division of Museums and History; the Nevada Arts Council; and the Nevada Indian Commission.
- In response to COVID-19, Travel Nevada has pivoted from promoting the state as a tourism destination to supporting Nevada's tourism industry.
 - Travel Nevada released its Recovery Plan in June; it's available online at [TravelNevada.biz](https://www.travelnevada.biz)
 - Travel Nevada also published a [Rural Tourism COVID19 Reopening plan in July for rural partners](#).
- The Nevada Commission on Tourism, which supports Travel Nevada with feedback and guidance, launched a Recovery Committee in November. The committee will provide feedback on Travel Nevada's recovery plan.
- Also, in November, Travel Nevada distributed \$1.65 million in COVID-19 Rural Recovery Grants that were funded through federal Coronavirus Relief Funds.
 - The grants were distributed to 55 rural organizations and nonprofit groups throughout Nevada to help them promote

that they are open for visitors, and to share safety practices in place to keep visitors safe.

- One example of a Rural Recovery Grant was a \$16,650 award to the Churchill Arts Council in Fallon to pay for still photography and long- and short-form videos demonstrating people enjoying the facility while practicing social distancing.
- The second grant program funded with CRF money was the Volunteer Impact Program. This program supported capital projects that encouraging social distancing and safety messaging. \$44,921 in grants was awarded to six agencies.
 - One example of a grant in this program was a \$6,000 award to the Austin Historical Society to replace old signage at the Austin Museum. The new signs included “open and safe” messaging.
- Currently, Travel Nevada is promoting the new online [Nevada Pride Shopping Guide](#), highlighting Nevada businesses. It’s part of an in-state travel campaign, [Discover Your Nevada](#), encouraging Nevadans to explore our wonderful state.
 - As the campaign is executed, people are encouraged to travel responsibly. At the very top of the campaign website, there is a link to COVID-19 health and safety travel information.
- Based on data collected, the Discover Your Nevada campaign was launched this fall. The campaign website, [DiscoverYourNevada.com](#), has itineraries featuring areas of the state that are open, special deals for Nevadans and other Nevada travel information.
 - Additionally, as part of the campaign, a children’s website, [DiscoverNVKids.org](#) , was launched that presents Nevada facts and information in a fun format appropriate for younger children.

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