



**NEVADA
HEALTH
RESPONSE**

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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COVID-19 Daily Press Bulletin for 8-26-2020

Carson City, NV — Today, Caleb Cage, Nevada COVID-19 Response Director and Julia Peek, Deputy Administrator of Community Health Services, provided updates on the ongoing COVID-19 response, testing and reporting in Nevada during a daily 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 66,666 this is an increase of 253 new cases, 152 or 60.1% were in Clark County, with 88 or 34.8% in Washoe County, and 13 or 5.1% were spread throughout the State.
- Nevada has now completed a total of 823,189 molecular tests since the beginning of COVID-19, an increase of 3,407 since yesterday.
- The cumulative test positivity rate is at 10.6%. The daily positivity rate is at 11.1%.

- For the most recent 7-day period, cases are growing at a rate of 0.8%, or 520 new cases per day. For comparison, the growth rate for the 7-day period ending July 31 was 2.3%, or 1,037 new cases per day.
- Nevada recorded an additional 20 deaths today. Please keep in mind that the death rates we are seeing correspond to cases diagnosed up to 5 weeks ago.
- Nevada has 761 hospitalized COVID-19 patients as of yesterday, August 25, 2020. This includes 611 confirmed patients, this is a decrease of 41 patients from yesterday and 150 suspected patients this is an increase of 30 patients from yesterday. Statewide hospital occupancy rates are 74% while intensive care units (ICU) are at an occupancy rate of 62%. About 35% of the ventilators statewide are in use right now for all patients.
- Nevada's healthcare infrastructure continues to experience a decline in COVID-19 demand and currently is not being significantly stressed by the virus.
- The healthcare system is hypothesizing and preparing for COVID-19 to be circulating for months to come, including during the upcoming flu season. COVID-19 may become endemic similarly to other once novel viruses (HIV, West Nile, etc.)
- Hospital planning is now focusing on restructuring policies and procedures, and to incorporate this virus into the healthcare workflow for the foreseeable future vs. the emergency and crisis response phase that hospitals found themselves in just a few months ago.
- Also of note the Center for Disease Control (CDC) has released new guidance stating "If you have been in close contact (within 6 feet) of a

person with a COVID-19 infection for at least 15 minutes but do not have symptoms, you do not necessarily need a test unless you are a vulnerable individual or your health care provider or State or local public health officials recommend you take one."

- It is very important to note here the State of Nevada DOES in fact recommend testing for close contacts. State and local public health officials are continuing to encourage testing if you come into contact with someone with COVID-19.
- From the first case of COVID in our state to yesterday, we have identified a total of 12,804 cases as a result of contact tracing. This represents 19.2% of the total cases reported to date.
 - The Deloitte contact tracers (now providing surge capacity to Southern Nevada Health District, Carson City Health and Human Services, and Washoe County Health District) have been communicating with close contacts 12-hours/day, 7-days per week to complement the same efforts by state, district, county, and tribal staff statewide.
 - Deloitte agents logged a total of 1,060 calls as of 8 PM PST on August 25.
 - Deloitte's SMS (text) campaign resulted in 2,043 total SMS messages sent, with 756 unique outbound communications and an average response rate of 81% from unique contacts.
 - Total Calls Logged To-Date: 61,052 (starting 6/18).
 - Nevada has developed a proximity-based exposure app called COVID Trace for Google and Apple devices. It works on both

iOS and Android devices. Please get the word out about this tool.

- As of today, COVID Trace has been downloaded 15,000 times
- Exposure notifications are in one of the newer phone updates, so a common issue folks have identified when downloading the app has been a result of this issue.
- If anyone has questions or challenges downloading the app, you can email help@covidtrace.com
- For the ELC Grant, Nevada has to test 2% of the total population per month. This is the equivalent of 60,000 tests per month or 2,000 tests per day. Nevada has been consistently reaching that threshold.

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