



# **ROAD TO RECOVERY: Moving to a New Normal**



## **Nye County Jurisdictional Assessment and Action Plan**

August 26, 2020

### **Overall Assessment:**

At 18,159 square miles, Nye County is the third largest county in the contiguous United States with a population of approximately 48,472 citizens. The Town of Pahrump represents approximately 85% of Nye County's population. The remaining 7,403 residents live in smaller, rural communities including Amargosa (1,327), Beatty (998), Gabbs (221), Manhattan (138), Round Mountain (763), and Tonopah (2,163).

Pahrump continues to be designated as a town with Elevated Disease Transmission. However, stringent COVID-19 enforcement objectives that follow established prevention guidelines coupled with reinforced prevention messages have resulted in decreased rates of new cases over the past week.

### **Critical Statewide Metrics:**

#### *Hospital Capacity:*

- Desert View Hospital is a 25-bed critical access hospital located in Pahrump. Currently there is no ICU or Med Surge beds occupied by COVID patients and the hospital is at approx. 65-70% capacity.
- The hospital is equipped with ventilators; however, none are in use by COVID patients.
- Desert View reports that staffing models are adequate for provided services and they continue to assess their staff daily before entering the facility. They have further limited access of non-patients into the hospital.
- Medications and treatments remain unremarkable with most patients released to self-quarantine at home.
- Desert View reports that PPE supplies are adequate and without issue.

#### *Access to Personal Protective Equipment:*

- Nye County Department of Emergency Management continues to manage a sufficient supply of PPE with prioritization to emergency responders, medical providers, testing facilities, long-term, skilled and assisted living facilities, government operations, and target hot spots.

#### *Testing Capacity:*

- Nye County continues to lead in the rural counties with approximately 6300 tests completed.
- To help ensure accuracy of our testing results, Nye County conducts only deep nasal-pharyngeal tests with appropriate recommended swab kits. Nye County has experienced several false negatives after testing known positive individuals using self-administered shallow swab tests.
- Our testing continues through private vendors by both appointment and a regularly scheduled drive thru center located in Pahrump. Additional testing is completed at the hospital, medical clinics, and doctor's offices.
- Nye County Department of Emergency Management regularly receives and distributes State supplied nasal-pharyngeal testing kits.

#### *Case Investigation and Contact Tracing:*

- Contact tracing within the County continues to be performed through a cooperative effort between the State and Nye County Emergency Management. The resources had been stretched thin but have now caught up due to reduced surge in new cases over the past week. The funding for additional tracers remains available but has not been utilized.

### *Protection of Vulnerable Populations:*

- Nye County continues to monitor and support the Nye County Sheriff's Office Jail, long-term, skilled nursing and assisted living facilities, and other vulnerable populations located throughout the County. This is completed by providing testing kits, PPE, and other associated prevention resource materials.

### *Enforcement:*

- Nye County continues to embrace a joint enforcement model which includes the Nye County Sheriff's Office, Nye County Code Compliance, the Nye County District Attorney's Office, and Nevada OSHA. The County continues to maintain and monitor a dedicated hotline for reporting violations of State directives.

Since August 19, 2020, Nye County has seen an increase of 25 positive COVID-19 cases with one new death. Of those, 23 reside in Pahrump, one in Round Mountain and one in Amargosa. Through contact tracing, the County has identified two primary epicenters of problem exposure over this past week: large, multi-generational families residing in the same household and law enforcement personnel with spread to their families.

### **Multi-family households:**

- Approximate Pahrump Cases: 6
- Approximate Rural Cases: 0
- Description: Nye County has many multi-generational families residing in the same household. Therefore, as one resident contracts COVID-10, the opportunity for spread within the family who resides in the same dwelling increases significantly. Consequently, individual homes have become one of the primary settings for COVID-exposure. There remains little opportunity for the County to regulate this type of exposure; however, we continue to offer the following:
- Action Plan
  - Continue public awareness/outreach campaigns through the County Public Information Officer (PIO). Campaigns are outlined on the Nye County website, DEM updates at BOCC meetings and through other public messaging platforms.
  - Through social media and other information outlets, continue to caution individuals to observe COVID-19 prevention measures and quarantine procedures should an outbreak occur within the household.
  - Continue to seek State support with testing kits and tracing efforts.

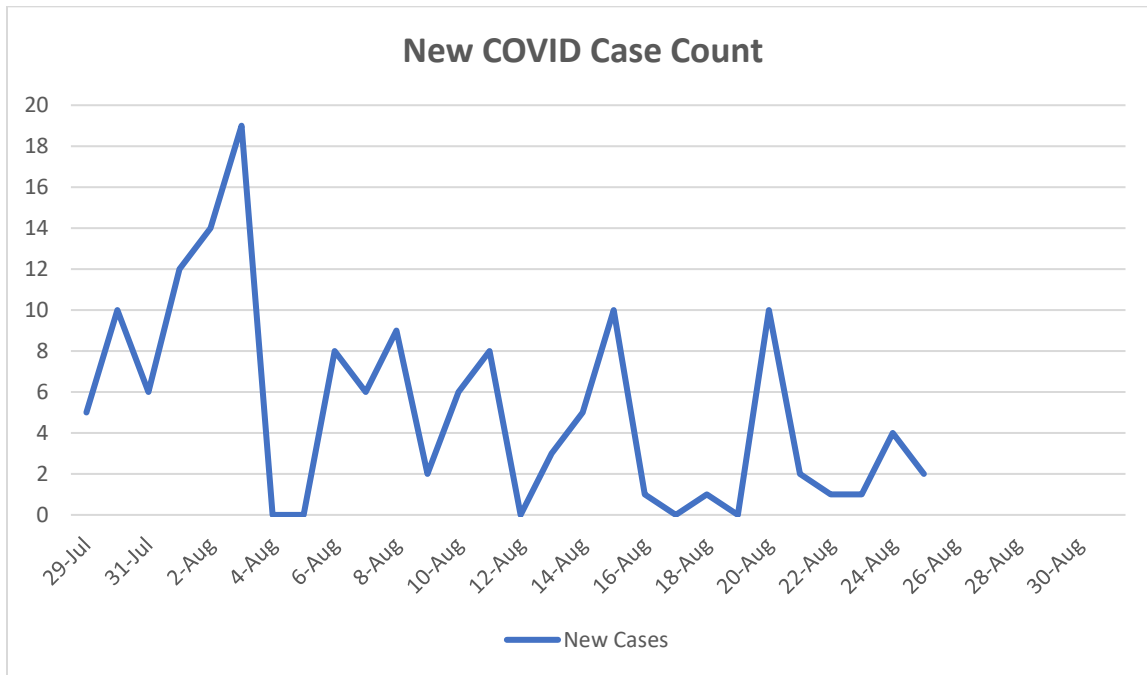
### **Law Enforcement, Detention Centers and Jails:**

- Approximate Pahrump Cases: 7
- Approximate Rural Cases: 0
- Description: Over the past week, Nye County has had one confirmed detainee case at the Federal Detention Center located in Pahrump. The remainder of the positive cases have been law enforcement dispatchers and children or spouses of COVID positive officers. We remain concerned about this exposure; however, we are cautiously optimistic with the reduced number of confirmed cases in this population base.
- Action Plan:
  - The Sheriff's Office has implemented the following directives:

- Enhanced cleaning measures for all Operational Divisions and Facilities
- Enhanced screening of all staff
- Additional testing conducted
- Air filtration enhancements, purchase of thermal screening units, oxygen concentrators, sanitizing cabinets, cleaning foggers, etc. for the jails and Sheriff's administrative offices using CARES funding.
- Continue to seek State support with resource requests for testing kits and PPE.

**Conclusion:**

Nye County continues to make strides in reducing the COVID-19 impact on our communities. Through testing and contact tracing, we continue to identify and understand community-specific risks and exposures. This in turn allows us to take the necessary steps to minimize the influence and spread of COVID.



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