

**State of Nevada Health District Jurisdiction Assessment and Action Plan
Churchill County for COVID-19 Task Force 8/20/20**

Overall Assessment:

Churchill County has been actively involved in the response to COVID-19 since March, even though we are under the jurisdiction and responsibility of the state of Nevada's Health District. This past week was the first time Churchill County was flagged "red" under two of the assessment criteria. Specifically, we were surprised by the 8.7% Test Positivity Rate as our data tracking showed a rate of 5.1% for the same period. Pursuant to our procedures, we re-test positive patients during the 14-day window of their first positive PCR test in order to help clear them to return to work. A person testing positive may therefore undergo two or more PCR tests that return positive results. As we communicated with the Governor's office regarding our discrepancy in numbers, we discovered that each time a positive person is re-tested, the State is counting it as a "new positive". The difference in these numbers is 36 total non-duplicated positive persons versus 61 duplicated positives. That is enough with our small population to move us from 5.1% to 8.7%. With our current understanding of the data collection, Churchill County will no longer permit re-testing of PCR positive patients in alignment with current CDC recommendations starting Monday August 24th, 2020. *Churchill County is requesting the statewide COVID Task Force waive these results and allow us to use the unduplicated number over the next three weeks thus removing us from the 'red flag' status.* Our current status is 91 total positives, (66 of those in the recovered status), no hospitalizations, and a cumulative positivity rate of 3.2% placing us in the lower half of rates of Nevada counties.

Hospital Capacity: As provided to the Governor's Office daily through the NV Hospital Association (August 24, 2020 Report)

Churchill has maintained its initial surged hospital capacity as implemented at the start of the pandemic. We have no current COVID-19 patients admitted in the Banner Churchill Community Hospital. Currently they have 76% staffed beds occupied, 50% ICU beds occupied, 0% ventilators in use, 0 current COVID-19 patients admitted, and an alternate care tent on location with 6 empty beds.

Access to Personal Protective Equipment:

Churchill County PPE reserves include 1,800 masks and 500 gowns. The Churchill County Sheriff's Office PPE reserves include 300 bottles of hand sanitizer, 9,000 kn95 masks, and 300 face shields. Test supplies utilized for our community surveillance testing are supplied bi-weekly through the state DEM. We have calculated our PPE need through December to support continued community testing.

Testing Capacity:

Banner Churchill Community Hospital is performing the majority of symptomatic testing in the county, with a total of 1,243 cumulative tests, and a monthly average of 250 tests administered. The county's weekly surveillance and trace testing results in an average of 600 tests administered

monthly. Combined we are testing 2.2% of our county population monthly. Currently, surveillance testing takes place weekly on Tuesdays at the county fairgrounds with trace testing taking place a couple of additional days each week.

Case Investigation and Contact Tracing:

Currently, contact tracing is done through our County Health Office with 100% case notice within 24 hours and 100% case contact notice within 48 hours. However, the majority of the time these notices of positivity or contact are made within 8 hours of the county receiving notification. We have only seen two examples of hot spots and have mitigated those through the entities or business owners.

Protection of Vulnerable Populations:

Currently the oversight of long-term care facilities is monitored through the State of Nevada, with notifications from county contract tracing. Churchill County is engaged in ongoing communication with these facilities to limit outside visitors and maintain surveillance testing. The county notifies facilities if any risk is identified during contract tracing related to any facility that serves vulnerable populations. This list includes but is not limited to The William N. Pennington Life Center, Homestead Assisted Living, Tunland Corp Group Homes, Churchill Area Regional Transportation, Highland Manor, Churchill County Social Services, and New Frontier Treatment Center to list just a few.

Enforcement:

County Level Information:

Churchill County agencies include all county departments and law enforcement as needed. The county has maintained its acceptable control of disease spread through the tracking system developed by the state and has not had to take enforcement action to date. We have had voluntary compliance when issues have arisen (restaurant closure). We have observed good compliance of mandates within our community. Additionally, the county has been heavily focused on public education through press releases and public service announcements provided by county and city leadership. Within the past two days we also hosted our first virtual town hall meeting in cooperation with the Churchill County School District.

City Level Information:

Since the initial Emergency Declaration in March, the City of Fallon has implemented and followed an observe/receive, discuss, educate and then enforce policy to ensure compliance with all of the Governor's directives and regulations. This policy was set out by Mayor Tedford and implemented by the City's Legal and Administrative Director, the City Clerk's Office, the City's Public Works Department, and the City's Police Department. All of these city departments have taken on this additional duty while maintaining essential services, like the provision of electric, water, sewer and sanitation service and public safety to and for the city's citizens and businesses.

The city has focused compliance efforts in two separate but related categories. First and foremost, the city has provided for the health and safety of our 100+ employees as well as maintaining full compliance by all city employees. The city has seen it as their duty to lead the community by example, e.g. ensuring that city employees are seen practicing social distancing, wearing masks and following all other safety directives and regulations.

Second, the city has responded to either observed potential violations or complaints received regarding potential violations by discussing, educating and seeking voluntary compliance from the alleged violator. The community has responded well to these efforts, especially when they have been contacted by the Fallon Police Department. The city has been able to obtain voluntary compliance without undertaking more punitive enforcement measures

County Action Plan:

Churchill County intends to continue focusing on education, community testing, rapid contact tracing response and voluntary compliance as illustrated above. We believe our data reflects limited disease transmission. Currently, Churchill County represents .14% of the state's total positives and .08% of the COVID-19 fatalities in the state.