



**ELKO COUNTY**  
**EMERGENCY OPERATIONS CENTER**  
571 Idaho Street  
Elko, NV 89801

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## **ELKO COUNTY COVID-19 ASSESSMENT AND ACTION PLAN**

Revised ~~August 26~~ **September 2, 2020**

### **OVERALL ASSESSMENT**

Elko County is the fourth largest county in the continental United States covering just over 17,000 square miles with a cumulative population of 55,116 according to the [2019 Nevada State Demographer's Certified Estimate](#). Within the borders of the County are four incorporated cities (Elko, Carlin, Wells, and West Wendover), three unincorporated towns (Jackpot, Montello, and Mountain City) and several other rural communities, including Spring Creek. Spring Creek is approximately ten miles south of Elko and is the second largest homeowner's association in the United States with approximately 13,000 residents. It is also the second most populated community in Elko County. Every community across the State is faced with unique challenges as the situation and response to COVID-19 evolves. Elko County communities are no exception.

Pursuant to Nevada Revised Statute 441A, the Nevada Division of Public and Behavioral Health (DPBH) is the health authority for Elko County and most other rural and frontier counties in the State. Immediately following the Governor's emergency closure of schools in mid-March, Elko County stood up the Emergency Operations Center (EOC) under a Unified Command Team structure consisting of the County Health Officer, Emergency Manager, and command staff. The focus of the EOC was to provide immediate, local response to our communities, including five neighboring counties, and to support the State in unprecedented times knowing that resources were, and continue to be, limited.

On March 26, 2020, the COVID-19 Hotline went live under the direction of the Elko County Health Officer in collaboration with Nevada Health Centers and the University of Nevada, Reno School of Medicine as well as other medical facilities across the Northeast Region as an innovative solution to mitigate multiple challenges including not overwhelming the health care system, limited test kit availability at that time, and a quasi-contact tracing mechanism. The hotline has served as resource for five counties which has enabled concerned community members to call with questions, concerns, or to be referred for testing. The hotline was one of the first of its kind and served as a model for similar resources across the State. It continues to be an integral part of the response in Elko County.

In addition, the Unified Command Team established a regional warehouse to help address PPE needs for the northeast region, including the tribes. On March 22, 2020, the Elko County COVID-19 Response Facebook page was launched. It has been dedicated to communicating about local response efforts and resources, including educational materials, Facebook live sessions with community leaders and the County Health Officer. Between July 28 and August 24, 2020, nearly 24,000 people have been reached through the Facebook page. A local COVID-19 dashboard was also developed when County level data was otherwise not readily available.

In mid-May, Elko County engaged Great Basin College and Dr. Amber Donnelly, Dean of Health Science and Human Services, to lead a local contact tracing team which has been instrumental in slowing the spread of COVID-19 in our communities, as well as Eureka and Lander County. According to data provided by DPBH, approximately 40% of the County's confirmed cases have been identified through the contact tracing process. The model developed by Dr. Donnelly has been utilized as a best-practice across the State.

While Elko County has made great strides in slowing the spread of the virus and reducing the number of active cases, we recognize we have challenges ahead, including finding a way to increase testing with limited resources. We have been diligent about exploring options to expand testing with local providers, many of which are already at capacity. Our local resources are dedicated to testing primarily those who are symptomatic, close contacts of confirmed cases identified through contact tracing, high-risk populations, and pre-medical procedure.

Over the past few weeks, result times from the Nevada State Public Health lab has averaged between 6 to 9 days which is not conducive from a virus mitigation standpoint. However, over the last few days, we have noticed a considerably quicker turnaround time for results in the 2 to 3 day range. This turnaround time must be sustained in order for us to have success in implementing community-based testing. **Increased testing effort will most likely require the assistance of the State and Nevada National Guard to complete the collection of samples.**

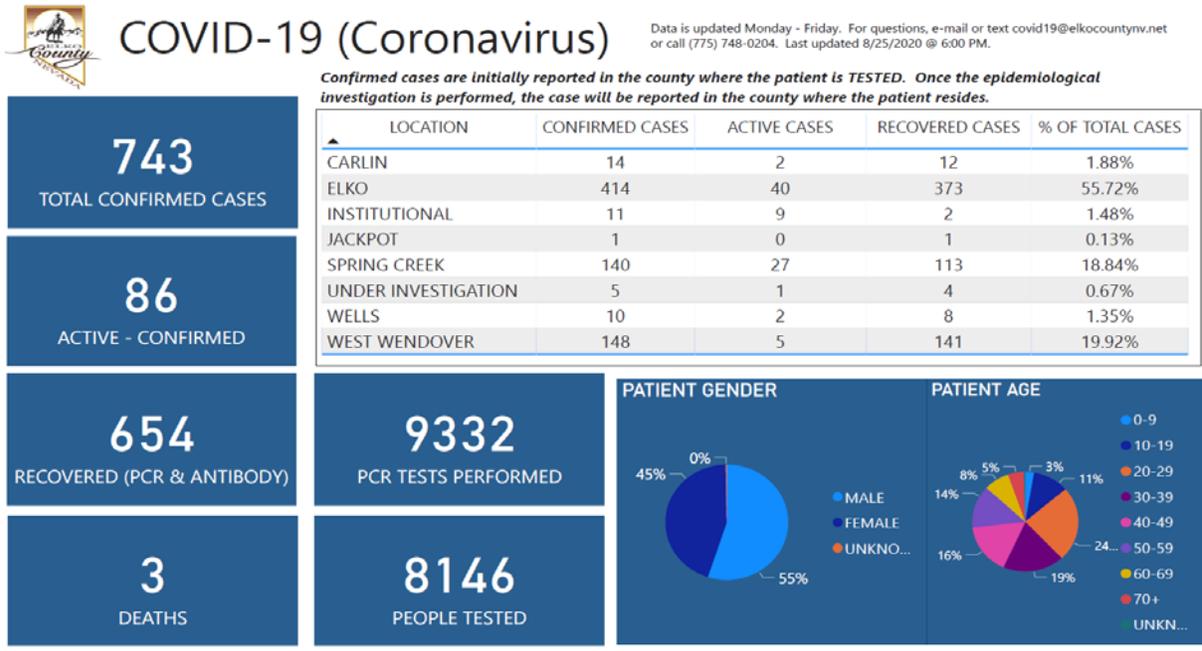
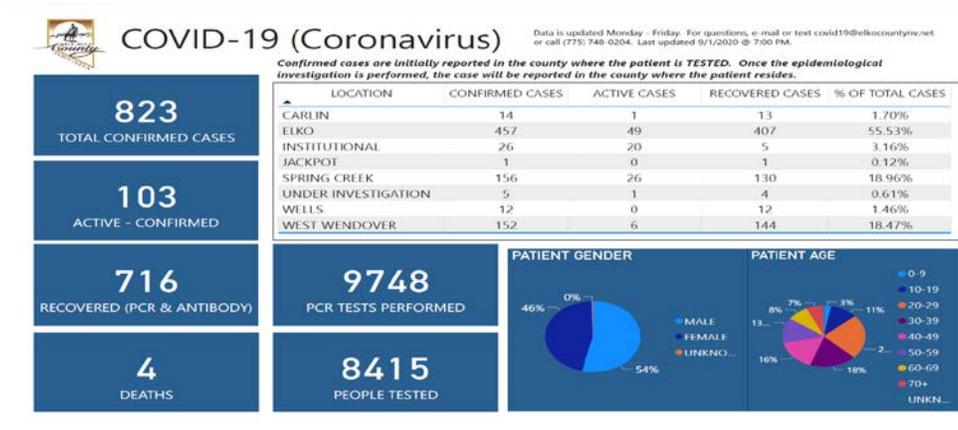
In addition, it is imperative that Elko County and the Task Force are on the same page and understand the data in which we are being held accountable to. For example, we were notified on September 1, 2020, that rapid tests which have been completed on a POC machine are not counted unless the result is positive. If the test is negative, a second test must be sent to a lab for validation. A total of 1,516 rapid tests have been completed and 234 have resulted positive. This means that 1,282 tests have been completed and not counted, which potentially has a significant impact on all of the metrics we are being held accountable to.

\_\_continue to face challenges which will most likely make it nearly impossible to move out of the "High Risk" category based on current metrics without a significant increase in testing. At this point, based on our experience, the Nevada State Public Health Lab cannot support an increase in testing and consistently provide results within a reasonable timeframe (3 to 4 days). The average turnaround time for results for the last seven days has been approximately six days, the week before was averaging eight to nine days. Elko County has arranged for transportation of samples to the Nevada State Public Health Lab on days the courier is not available, including weekends. The lag times are not associated with delayed receipt of the samples after collection.

Elko County understands the importance of increased testing; however, we must utilize our limited resources to support our current testing strategy which includes testing primarily those who are symptomatic, close contacts of confirmed cases identified through contact tracing, high-risk populations, and pre-medical procedure. We continue to actively explore opportunities with local health providers to allow for additional testing, including those who are asymptomatic.

In July/August, Elko County reported a total of 3383 new cases, \_and recovered 320 recovered33 cases, 2 deaths, and a daily average of 96 active cases. One factor that has contributed to the

number of new cases is a recent outbreak at Highland Manor, Elko County's only skilled nursing facility. Since August 12, 2020, 24 skilled nursing residents, 2 assisted living residents, and 14 staff have tested positive. Since August 1, 2020, Elko County has reported 278 new cases and 272 recoveries. Elko County currently has a total of 86 active cases.



The Unified Command Team, with the assistance of the Task Force Director, has collaborated with each of the incorporated cities to include their recommendations for re-opening based on their unique circumstances and mitigation strategies. Recommendations are included later in the action plan.

**HOSPITAL CAPACITY**

Describe the state of hospital capacity within the county, including:

Describe the status of staffed ICU beds, ventilators, staffing, medication treatments, and PPE.

Elko County continues to collaborate with Northeastern Nevada Regional Hospital (NNRH) to closely monitor overall capacity to treat and care for all patients, not only those with COVID-19. NNRH has ten designated rooms to isolate and treat COVID-19 patients, including a negative pressure room. Through the pandemic, staffing and occupancy has been good.

NNRH reports they have a limited supply of Remdesivir. The current levels of medication are holding steady as of the morning of ~~August 26<sup>th</sup>~~ September 1, 2020.

To date, no admitted COVID-19 patient has required the use of a ventilator.

As of ~~August 25~~ September 1, 2020, based on the daily report from Nevada Hospital Association:

- 2419% of Licensed Inpatient Beds are being utilized, up from 19% last week.
  - ICU beds – 7 licensed beds, 10 occupied
  - Ventilators – 6 machines , 0 in use
  - 18 positive cases isare currently hospitalized
- Six of the eight hospitalized cases are residents from Highland Manor. The cases were transferred to NNRH, not because they clinically require hospitalization, but because the skilled nursing facility does not have enough staff to adequately care for the residents.

~~We recognize that an outbreak within the skilled nursing facility may strain hospital resources. So far, none of the residents have required hospitalization related to COVID-19.~~

PPE, and medication levels are adequate as reported to NHA. NNRH is sanitizing PPE, including N95 masks in effort to ensure PPE levels remain stable. In addition, they continue to purchase and stockpile PPE to prepare for a surge.

NNRH has a small number of staff that are off duty due to COVID-19. The 14-day quarantine for close contacts could provide a substantial staffing challenge if there is an increase in the number of staff exposed to COVID-19, especially through household contacts.

**Describe the status of Alternative Care Facility planning, staffing, and implementation.**

~~Alternate Care Facility planning is ongoing.~~ NNRH can expand capacity within their own facility, including obtaining additional ventilators, if necessary. However, full implementation of NNRH's Surge Plan ~~an Alternative Care Facility~~, even if only expanding within the currently facility, will require ~~resources from the State~~ additional staff.

**Describe your current assessment of overall hospital capacity and metrics that will determine expansion to Alternative Care Facilities.**

Elko County ~~will~~has ~~worked~~ed with NNRH to ensure appropriate metrics have been identified which determine the implementation of the Alternative Care Facility Surge Plan. The “triggers” which require implementation of the plan are based mostly on staffing needs, which are situational and dynamic. NNRH has sister facilities from which they may be able to utilize staff. In addition, NNRH works with contract staffing agencies to fulfill staffing requirements, when needed, and are prepared to do so.

Overall, Elko County’s hospital capacity is good and remains stable with ~~no~~even with eight current COVID-19 hospitalizations at NNRH.

The Task Force should also note, the town of Jackpot is located on the Nevada-Idaho border and the City of West Wendover is located on the Nevada-Utah border. Both communities have access to an acute care clinic operated by Nevada Health Centers; however, most residents seek medical care outside of the State, especially when advanced care, such as hospitalization is required. Jackpot has had one confirmed case and West Wendover has had 148 confirmed cases to date, with five current, active cases. Four West Wendover cases which have required hospitalization have received treatment in a Utah facility.

**ACCESS TO PERSONAL PROTECTIVE EQUIPMENT**

**Describe the status of PPE within the county, including:**

The Elko County Logistics Team continues to support the regional warehouse which was established to provide supplies to Humboldt, Lander, Eureka, White Pine, and Elko counties as well as State and tribal agencies in northeastern Nevada. The Nevada National Guard trained the Logistics team members to utilize their database, Inflo.

**Describe the status of PPE on hand (in local reserve) and on order.**

Nevada is stable with a 30-day supply on-hand with vendors being identified to maintain continuity of operations.

The current PPE status for health care providers and our public health system, including private practices, is at sufficient capacity for maintaining the status quo. As PPE has become more readily available through the normal supply chain, we have received fewer requests for assistance. However, the logistics team continues to work with existing suppliers and to identify new suppliers to plan for and build supplies necessary to respond to a surge or resurgence of COVID-19. In addition to the regional warehouse, Elko County EOC maintains a local warehouse in effort to respond to immediate, short-term needs.

We’re encouraging providers to utilize the Battelle system for N-95 masks, although NNRH is using an in-house sanitizing process for their own PPE.

Through the use of CARES Act funding, Elko County and the incorporated cities have an appropriate amount of PPE to support the continuity of local government and municipal operations for at least 30 days, including the continuance of criminal jury trials in the next few weeks. We are also preparing to support any PPE needs related to in-person voting this in the

next few months.

**Describe the county’s distribution priorities.**

PPE is distributed based on the priorities set by Nevada Division of Emergency Management, specifically hospitals, acute care facilities, private practices and correctional facilities, first responders and those supporting vulnerable populations.

**TESTING CAPACITY**

**Describe the status of your local testing efforts, including:**

**Description of testing criteria:**

Under the direction of Elko County Health Officer, Dr. Putnam, the testing strategy continues to be driven by availability of local resources. ~~While the turnaround time for test results from the Nevada State Public Health lab have significantly improved over the last few days, sustained improvement is important in the overall mitigation of the virus. and challenged by lengthy turnaround times.~~ The priority for testing is as follows:

- Individuals experiencing symptoms consistent with COVID-19
- Close contacts of a confirmed case
- High risk or vulnerable individuals
- Healthcare workers and first responders
- Individuals scheduled for medical procedures

~~Initially, Nevada Health Centers was the primary provider for testing. However, after further review, the following breakdown of testing by facility (which is missing some days’ worth of data), it is clear that many of the community providers are sharing the burden of testing. Based on the information below, we believe we are meeting the criteria of performing more than an average of 150 tests per day.~~

TESTING STATS BY FACILITY  
DATE: 8/1/2020 - 8/24/2020

FACILITY	TOTAL
A+ URGENT CARE	176
GOLDEN HEALTH	233
MEDALLUS	26
NVHC - ELKO	199
NVHC - JACKPOT	0
NVHC - WW	113
NNRH	547
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>1294</b>

~~Community-based testing is not currently integrated as part of the County’s strategy mostly due to barriers including, a lack of resources to support a CBT event and, most importantly, the lengthy turn-around time for results.~~

Elko County has initiated conversations with local health care providers to support increased testing efforts through a drive-thru clinic or other means for both symptomatic and asymptomatic individuals. We are finalizing details with one local provider and anticipate communication of the additional testing availability next week.

In addition, we have been engaged in conversations with the Task Force regarding community-based testing. The Emergency Manager is working with State resources in effort to plan future testing, which will require State and/or National Guard support. –In the event the State is able to contract with a private organization that offers point of care testing for community-based testing events, Elko County would be interested in hosting an event(s). Resources from the State would be required to support such an event.

### **Overview of the number of people tested in a day/week.**

Based on the data provided by NV DPBH, Elko County has average ~~7866~~ tests per day over the last 30 days. However, we are concerned that not all labs are reporting the appropriate data to NV DPBH. For example, on August 24, 2020, a total of two labs were reported for the entire County and on August 18, one lab was reported. Even though these dates may be reporting numbers from a weekend, NNRH alone does more testing than that on a daily basis, including weekends.

In addition, it is imperative that Elko County and the Task Force are on the same page and understand the data in which we are being held accountable to. For example, we were notified on September 1, 2020, that rapid tests which have been completed on a POC machine are not counted unless the result is positive. If the test is negative, a second test must be sent to a lab for validation. A total of 1,516 rapid tests have been completed and 234 have resulted positive. This means that 1,282 tests have been completed and not counted, which potentially has a significant impact on all of the metrics we are being held accountable to.

### **Overview of targeted testing efforts for high-risk communities, outbreak intervention and other efforts.**

Elko County is monitoring local data for trends to identify localized outbreaks. We are currently working on procuring another point of care testing machine in an effort to have more capacity to test vulnerable populations. Additionally, we have on hand over 500 rapid test kits for deployment as needed for targeted testing and we are able to deploy these test kits to Nevada Health Centers who has an Abbott rapid testing machine and trained staff to use the machine.

### **Schools**

The Elko County School District (ECSD) is the third largest in the state with 21 sites and approximately 10,000 students, 868 full-time staff, 224 part-time staff and 263 substitute teachers.

School District Staff: They have developed training modules for staff regarding Coronavirus awareness, cleaning and disinfecting your workplace and managing stress and anxiety. There is an administrator/supervisor quick reference guide for actions to take with their building when a student/employee has symptoms, exposure, or a positive test. They have also established a

quick reference guide for students. This includes a description of coronavirus, how it is spread, how to protect themselves and their family what to watch for regarding symptoms, when to seek medical attention and returning to school criteria. The guide is comprehensive and includes picture algorithms.

### **Skilled Nursing Facility Outbreak**

Skilled nursing facilities are regulated by the State of Nevada, HCQC.

Late last week, an outbreak was identified in the skilled nursing facility. A total of 1640 individuals have tested positive, including 1126 residents and 514 staff. The State Epidemiologist's team has initiated an investigation and is working closely with Dr. Putnam to mitigate further spread of the virus. On Monday, the HCQC team arrived and completed an investigation.

Pursuant to CMS guidance, the skilled nursing facility is required to test staff and residents who have tested negative twice a week for at least the next 90 days. Elko County, through support of the Nevada State Public Health Lab, will continue to provide test kits to allow for regular, weekly testing of staff and residents until the outbreak is under control or longer required be the regulatory agency(ies). Nevada Health Centers will conduct rapid testing as capacity allows.

We are also working closely with the State and have initiated a request for emergency staffing through the Battle Born Medical Corps which will assist the facility in providing direct care to residents and to fill the gaps in the event any additional staff members test positive. Elko County currently provides a small amount of funds to NV DPBH through an interlocal agreement for a Community Health Nurse to provide public health services, which may be utilized to assist with testing. ~~A CHN will assist with testing staff on Thursday this week.~~ Ongoing needs will be assessed, and additional support may be provided by the CHN.

We also continue to closely monitor the City of West Wendover even though there are only five active cases within the community. West Wendover is particularly challenging because on the other side of the Nevada border is Wendover, UT and Nevada and Utah have separate jurisdiction over the city within their respective state. Many of the Wendover, UT residents work in the gaming industry in Nevada. If there was an outbreak in the Wendover, UT community, NV DPBH may not be notified. As it is, reporting of results from Utah Department of Health to NV DPBH for West Wendover residents who test in Utah is generally significantly delayed. The last results were delayed for more than three weeks, some of which were positive cases, significantly limiting our ability to effectively complete the disease investigation and appropriate contact trace each case.

### **CASE INVESTIGATION AND CONTACT TRACING**

#### **Describe the current status of your contact tracing efforts, including:**

Informal case investigation and contact tracing was implemented by Dr. Putnam early in Elko County's response to COVID-19, partially through the COVID-19 hotline. Contract tracing has evolved to a highly competent team led by Dr. Amber Donnelly, Dean of Health Sciences and Human Services at Great Basin College. She developed a model which has been implemented across the State.

Case investigation and contact tracing has proven to be one the County's best defenses and most effective strategies against spreading the virus in our communities. Forty percent of the County's confirmed cases have been identified through familial relationships and contact tracing. In addition, Elko County has provided communication about the new contact tracing app, COVID Trace which was rolled out earlier this week.

### **Description of your current contact tracing workforce.**

Elko County partners with Great Basin College to provide disease investigation and contact tracing services for Elko, Eureka, and Lander counties. The team is led by Dr. Amber Donnelly, Dean of Health Sciences and Human Services and is adequately staffed to meet our needs. A significant number of cases have been identified through contact tracing efforts, which has led to the stabilization in active cases.

### **Percent of positive cases contacted within 24 hours, and percent of cases contacted within 48 hours.**

Upon notification of a positive result through the NBS system, the disease investigator begins collecting and validating contact information. Many laboratory results are reported without information necessary to begin the case investigation. When data is missing, the ordering facility is contacted for each case to gather the necessary information. Currently, the team is contacting all positive cases within 24 hours as long as they have accurate contact information for the case. They are also contacting all close contacts within 48 hours so long as they have accurate contact information.

Elko County is still-transitioning to the new Deloitte software system this week. There will be no expected delays in completing timely disease investigation(s) and contract tracing. We are requesting approval for end-user access for Dr. Donnelly to be able to extract data from the new system which will allow the County and cities access to community exposure data which will help drive data-informed decisions and recommendations to the Task Force in the future.

### **Overview contact tracing findings suggesting high-risk areas.**

#### **Skilled Nursing Facility Outbreak**

Late last week, an outbreak was identified in the skilled nursing facility. A total of 1640 individuals have tested positive, including 1126 residents and 514 staff. The State Epidemiologist's team has initiated an investigation and is working closely with Dr. Putnam to mitigate further spread of the virus. Elko County will provide test kits to allow for regular, weekly testing of staff and residents until the outbreak is under control. Nevada Health Centers will conduct rapid testing as capacity allows.

#### **Workplace Exposures**

Last week we reported a localized outbreak of cases that are related to one organization and the investigation is ongoing. It has been determined that while several cases have been linked to the organization, many of the positive cases had close contacts outside the workplace with co-workers and family members in social gatherings. In addition, the organization is completing

internal contact tracing and implementing disciplinary procedures if employees are not following internal mitigation protocols in effort to slow the spread of the virus.

Elko County is working with the contact tracing team to separate tribal data from the rest of the county data to ensure local practices are consistent with those across the State. Separating tribal data from the County data is important because Elko County does not have the ability to require implementation of mitigation measures by tribes. Although, it is important to note, the tribes in Elko County have been very diligent about tracking their cases and ensuring their cases have any support needed—.

### **Other Information**

In addition to COVID-19 screening, the City of Elko has implemented testing of sewage and septage samples. The sewer system serves nearly 25,000 residents and also accepts septage from outside septic systems. With the exception of lasttwo weeks ago, reports have indicated a week over week decrease of active cases, which is consistent the case date being reported through the Elko County dashboard.

### **PROTECTION OF VULNERABLE POPULATIONS**

**Describe your county's plans for addressing outbreaks within vulnerable populations, including:**

#### **Overview of efforts and interventions in skilled nursing facilities.**

As previously mentioned, the skilled nursing facility in Elko is currently experiencing an outbreak amongst staff and residents. Impacted residents have been isolated to a specific area of the facility and dedicated staff have been assigned to provide direct care to only those residents. In effort to provide adequate care to residents who have tested positive, NNRH has accepted six residents into their facility, not because the residents condition required hospitalization, but to assist from a staffing and adequate care perspective. A request for emergency staffing has been placed with the State. Three-Four hundred and fifty test kits have been provided to support increased testing for both staff and residents.

The skilled nursing facility continues to be closed to friends and family and only allows essential personnel access to the building. The Unified Command Team is working closely with the Administrator and Direct of Nursing to ensure they have appropriate PPE supplies and access to rapid testing based on availability of the machine. While it may not necessarily be an intervention, the skilled nursing facility's medical provider updated most residents' advanced directives and POLST shortly after closing the facility due to COVID-19.

#### **Overview of efforts and interventions in correctional facilities.**

Elko County Jail and the Juvenile Detention Center are the only correctional facilities which fall under the jurisdiction of the County.

- Inmates are brought in by patrol from any one of several agencies. Generally, arrestees are masked before being placed in the patrol vehicle, if possible. When the arrestee arrives at the facility, a jail deputy or contracted medical staff goes over the COVID-19 questionnaire. The arrestee's temperature is taken and depending on the arrestee's answers to the questions, they're cleared to be booked into the facility or sent to NNRH

for further medical evaluation. Inmates who are clear for booking without symptoms are placed in isolation for at least 72 hours.

- If the inmate does not have a mask when booked, one is provided to them.
- Cleaning of the cells is completed at least twice a day to allow for the cells to be disinfected.
- Hand sanitizer and mask are provided to all employees.
- Employees are required to stay home if they're sick.

To date, there have been two positive adult inmates who were in the facility at separate times. Dr. Putnam has worked closely with both facilities to ensure isolation and testing procedures are in place to stop the spread within the facility, if necessary.

Elko County continues to work closely with Nevada Youth Training Center (NYTC) to ensure they are supported from all aspects, including adequate PPE supplies. At least one staff member of NYTC tested positive this week; however, NYTC falls under the jurisdiction of the State.

## **ENFORCEMENT**

**Describe your county's enforcement efforts, including:**

### **County level information:**

#### **Overview of agencies engaged in enforcement:**

While the Board of County Commissioners approved enforcement of protective measures in the Re-opening and Response Plan on August 5, 2020, the County does not currently have agencies actively involved in enforcement. Rather, the County is relying on State agencies such as Environmental Health Services, the Nevada Gaming Control Board, Board of Cosmetology, and Nevada OSHA to assist with compliance efforts. From time to time, the County receives complaints and they are promptly investigated and resolved, generally through education of the business owner. As a general observation, most businesses have displayed "masks required" signage on their door(s) or in a window. *The County stands ready to ~~being provide~~ enforcement in the unincorporated area if contact tracing identifies a particular area or business of concern.*

Nevada OSHA conducted compliance visits at 225 locations within Elko County between August 7 and August 13. During first observations, it was noted that 88.9% of business or locations visited were in compliance with directives. After the second visit, 100% of organizations were in compliance.

Elko County maintains a relationship with state and federal cooperators to ensure that all incoming fire crews and firefighting resources are meeting mitigation measures for Elko County and federal recommendations while operating on incidents within Elko County.

We are aware that a number of businesses or organizations have received letters inquiring about a potential violation(s) from Nevada OSHA. Businesses and/or organizations are required to respond to the alleged violation, in writing, within a certain number of days.

### **City Level Compliance**

### **City of Elko**

The City of Elko reviews each new emergency directive and issues press releases to traditional media sources, as well as the City of Elko Website and social media. Public education is the preferred compliance method. The Elko Police Department is responsible for initial contact and issuing verbal warnings if a business appears to be out of compliance. Failure to comply results in the issuance of a written "Notice of Violation" (NOV). To date, twenty-five (25) NOV's have been issued to various businesses within the City of Elko. Any business failing to comply after receiving a NOV is subject to business license revocation. To date, one (1) business license has been revoked.

### **City of Carlin**

No formal compliance program, relying on State resources to assist with enforcement and compliance efforts.

### **City of Wells**

The City of Wells' law enforcement service is provided the Elko County Sheriff's Office through an interlocal agreement with Elko County. No formal compliance program has been adopted. Relying on County and State resources to assist with compliance efforts.

### **City of West Wendover**

West Wendover Police Department is not actively enforcing directives, rather they're educating business owners to assist with compliance efforts. In addition, due to the casinos in West Wendover, the Nevada Gaming Control Board sets the standards for compliance within the community.

### **Combined County and City Efforts**

Education continues to be a focus to encourage businesses and individuals to follow public health guidance and emergency directives in effort to slow the spread of the virus. Ultimately, it is important that the County and cities work together to be consistent in compliance efforts.

In the last special legislative session, Senate Bill 4 passed which extends civil liability protection to most businesses, non-profit organizations, and governmental entities for personal injury or death resulting from exposure to COVID-19, so long as the business or organization is following the public health guidance and emergency directives from the State of Nevada.

In addition, based on the City of Elko's recommendation, we are looking into utilizing reader boards at points of entry throughout the County which encourage individuals and businesses alike to following the emergency directives and public health guidance, including the use of facial coverings and social distancing.

### **ACTION PLAN**

Please provide the county's action plan for addressing COVID-19 in your communities. This plan should be tailored to the data and findings in the assessment. Ensure that metrics are provided to ensure success and drive decisions. Also, ensure that you identify any state and federal resources that are necessary for implementing your plan, while noting these requests must still go through the resource ordering process with the state Division of Emergency Management.

## **Elko County**

Elko County respectfully requests that all bars, pubs, taverns, breweries, and wineries under the County's jurisdiction be permitted to operate under Directive 021, Sections 25 and 26 effective ~~Thursday, August 27 at 12:01am~~immediately.

## **City of Elko**

The City of Elko respectfully requests that all bars, pubs, taverns, breweries, and wineries under the City's jurisdiction be permitted to operate under Directive 021, Sections 25 and 26 effective ~~Thursday, August 27 at 12:01am~~immediately. All bars are currently in compliance, and some are already preparing to reopen, as they have received the necessary licensing to serve food from the State of Nevada DHHS.

## **Cities of Carlin, Wells and West Wendover**

The cities of Carlin, Wells, and West Wendover respectfully request that bars, pubs, taverns, breweries, distilleries, and wineries be permitted to open in accordance with Directive 021, Sections 25 and 26 based on the same justification as above.

~~Carlin and Wells each have two active cases and West Wendover has five active cases.~~

See additional information attached provided by the City of West Wendover.

## **Justification**

Much like the rest of the State, we have seen sickness and have experienced the tragic loss of three residents' lives due to COVID-19 in our County. However, it is important to keep things in perspective and base decisions on statistics that matter and make sense for our County. The number of new cases continues to incrementally increase; however, the number of active cases has stabilized over the last few weeks. In addition, hospital capacity (including staffing and PPE) has remained good and hospitalizations have remained low with most only lasting a few days. In addition, 59% of our cases are between the ages 20-49, which is generally a healthier population with less risk.

We have not seen a spike in cases due to exposures in local businesses which serve the public or in public areas. We have had two local outbreaks which are in organizations that do not directly serve the public and mitigation strategies are in the process of being implemented or have been implemented. Many of our recent cases are a result of multiple cases within the same household or within the same family. For example, we recently had a family of six who tested positive within the same household. There was another family of four who tested positive, but lived in two separate households.

In an attempt to align with neighboring counties and to discourage travel to outside of the County, opening bars, taverns, pubs and wineries in Elko County should encourage intra-county travel instead of residents traveling to neighboring and more vulnerable communities.

The recent Nevada OSHA compliance audit suggests that businesses are voluntarily complying with state regulations related to COVID-19, including adhering to the baseline mitigation standards. Elko County's Unified Command Team intends to continue meeting with local stakeholders and the cities on a regular basis to ensure that any potential issues can be mitigated immediately. In addition, Elko County has engaged Marena Works, who is a well-respected public health expert, to assist us with our continued effort to navigate and slow the spread of the virus in our communities as well as prepare for this fall. Matt Petersen has joined the Elko County team as the full-time Emergency Manager and will be instrumental in the continued response efforts to COVID-19.

We understand that increased testing continues to be a priority for the State. We are happy to coordinate and facilitate a community-based testing event(s) with the assistance of Nevada National Guard and if the Nevada State Public Health Lab can provide results within a reasonable amount of time which allows for effective mitigation of the virus. In addition, we are continuing to work with our local providers to increase testing at their facilities as well.

The COVID-19 Hotline and disease investigation and contact tracing will continue to be an integral part of the County's response to the virus. In addition, we have communicated the availability of the COVID Trace app on our social media platforms.

PPE stock remains adequate to support those within Elko County, including medical facilities and first responders. We will continue to focus efforts purchasing PPE to prepare for this fall.

In partnership with State agencies, we are confident that we can ensure compliance with the required directives.

## **REQUESTED ACTION – APPROVAL OF THREE (3) SPECIAL EVENTS**

### **Rides and Rods Car Show**

The City of Elko respectfully requests approval of an outdoor event, specifically a car show on September 11, 12, & 13 in accordance with Directive 021. Other similar events have been held in the State of Nevada:

- Special Event will limit entries to 250 vehicles, spread over 1+ acre of outdoor open space (50,000 square feet). Social distancing will be emphasized.
- Vehicles will be parked in 10 separate areas within Elko City Park, Elko Convention Center, and Elko Conference Center. Each area will be approximately 5,000 square feet, and will contain a maximum of 25 cars on display within each "area".
- Each area will be monitored by event staff to ensure no more than 50 people are within each area at any one time (including entrants). Event staff will also ensure face covering compliance. Free masks and hand sanitizer will be provided to spectators.
- Event organizer will implement health & safety guidelines (see attached).
- Food & Concession areas will comply with Emergency Directive 027 (no bar tops, no bar seating). Seating/standing areas will be limited to no more than 50 people at any one time.
- No extracurricular events (burnout contests, loud pipe contests, awards ceremony, etc.).

***\*\*Rides and Rods Event Health & Safety Guidelines attached.\*\****

### **Elko County Fair and Livestock Show**

Elko County and City of Elko respectfully request approval of an outdoor event, specifically a livestock event to be held outdoors at the Elko County Fairgrounds on Labor Day Weekend.

On the advice of a Nevada Gaming Control representative, the Fair Board has already made the decision to cancel the races and pari-mutuel betting, which are the main attraction at the Fair and the reason for the large crowds:

However, in addition to the races, the annual Fair also includes a variety of stock horse events and a youth livestock show that are typically attended by only close family members. The Fair Board would like to continue with this family-oriented tradition this year. It is a part of Elko County's culture that we would like to continue uninterrupted.

After receiving OSHA warnings concerning the Silver State Stampede and Grange Livestock Sale, the Fair Board wants to produce this year's Fair by the books. It prepared to set up per Nevada Covid-19 guidelines and follow the roadmap provided by DVM JJ Goicoechea for Outdoor Equine and Livestock Competitions:

Some of the safety measures already identified are:

- Everyone entering the grounds will be temperature checked
- Masks will be required to enter and stay on grounds
- All events will be conducted outdoors
- Group sizes will be limited to 50

- ~~Five separate arenas will be used to keep people apart~~
- ~~Youth show classes will be limited to 9 at a time~~
- ~~Multiple hand-washing booths will be available~~
- ~~All extra barns, stalls and parking areas will be used to keep social distance~~
- ~~Continuous cleaning of restrooms, gates and counters~~
- ~~Food & Concession areas will comply with Emergency Directive 027 (no bar tops and no bar seating). Seating/standing areas will be limited to no more than 50 people at any one time.~~

~~Many livestock events have been held around Nevada with no outbreaks of COVID. Two weeks ago, Lyon County held its livestock show for 4-H and Grange with 110 kids participating and 60 animals sold. Eureka County held its annual Fair, Branding and Livestock Show at the same time. This past weekend, White Pine County held its 4-H Livestock Show/Sale and Ranch Rodeo. Humboldt County is currently planning its Livestock Show and PRCA Rodeo on Labor Day Weekend. And finally, the Nevada High School Rodeo season is starting this weekend in Douglas County.~~

~~The Fair Board understood the concern of the Gaming Board for the large crowds associated with the races, but thinks it is vitally important to continue with the Fair and Livestock Show. The students in the Livestock Show have been caring for their animals since January with the anticipation of showing them at the fair. The older students will be entering their animals in the sale in the hopes of earning money to pursue their dreams after high school.~~

~~Likewise, those showing their horses in the Stock Horse events have been training all summer for this one weekend.~~

~~The Fair Board members are confident they can produce the Fair safely and in compliance with all directives and keep this vital part of our county's culture intact.~~

## **ELKO COUNTY FAIR & LIVESTOCK SHOW HEALTH & SAFETY GUIDELINES**

### ~~#1—Entrance~~

- ~~This will be the only entrance into the grandstands during the branding and roping events.~~
- ~~Temperature checks will be conducted there.~~
- ~~Masks will be required with signs being posted throughout the grandstand area.~~
- ~~Social distancing signs will be posted.~~
- ~~Extra sani-huts will be available and cleaned every hour.~~
- ~~Restrooms will be open and cleaned hourly.~~
- ~~Hand wash stations will be available~~
- ~~All events are outdoors.~~
- ~~Remind people entering to limit group size to 50 or less.~~

### ~~#2—Grandstands~~

- ^ Grandstand has seating capacity of 2000 people and we do not expect large crowds.. We are estimating around 150 spectators coming to the event which is less than 10% of the seating capacity.
- ^ We will add 2 extra portable stands in Section #3 which will assist even more in social distancing.
- ^ Again we will remind people of all the requirements mentioned above.
- ^ Signs will be posted for social distancing and mask requirements.

### #3 — Bar area

- ^ There will be an area of 6' roped off between the bar and where the servers will serve drinks.
- ^ 2 food trucks will be parked next to the bar.
- ^ There will be tables/spools for servers to put drinks on.
- ^ The bartenders will pour the drinks handing to the server who will set on the tables for the customer.
- ^ A hand wash sink is available for servers behind the bar.
- ^ Bar will be cleaned and wiped down constantly.
- ^ Servers will be masked and gloved.
- ^ All requirements listed above will be mentioned to everyone.

### **Gold Rush Challenge Bull Riding Event**

The City of Elko respectfully requests approval of an outdoor event at Elko County Fairgrounds on September 12. The event organizer, Benavides Bucking Bulls, LLC, intends on following similar protocols to that of the Elko County Fair and Livestock Show.

***\*\*Gold Rush Challenge Mitigation Plan attached (6 pages)\*\****



## **CITY OF WEST WENDOVER**

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### **CITY OF WEST WENDOVER COVID -19 BAR RE-OPENING PLAN**

**August 25, 2020**

**Statement:** In review of the Coronavirus (COVID-19) cases as reported within Elko County and the related contact tracing that continues to be conducted, it is apparent that the majority of previous, current and likely future cases of infection will originate via exposures as a result of family members and/or at activities which include larger social gatherings. Thus, the typical bar settings at businesses within the City of West Wendover are not foreseen to contribute significant future risk with appropriate guidelines established for such bar activities.

**Requirements:** For bars to re-open and operate under licensing of the City of West Wendover including those located within gaming establishments (casinos), the following requirements must be in place with appropriate inspections ensuring compliance:

1. There shall be no bar-top service unless appropriate Plexiglas partitions have been installed that separate bar-top patrons from other bar-top patrons and that separate bar-top patrons from bar tenders.
2. With appropriate areas so designated, bar patrons may walk up to and place drink orders directly from the bar at the bar-top. The areas designated must provide and maintain required social distancing between patrons ordering drinks in addition to maintaining appropriate distancing from other bar patrons that may be seated at the bar-top if meeting the partition requirements in Section 1 above.
3. Bars with associated dance floors, may not reopen unless such dance floors are closed for use.
4. All bars are required to follow current and any future COVID-19 Directives Issued by the Governor of the State of Nevada and/or any associated rules/requirements issued by the Governor's COVID-19 Taskforce. This includes but is not limited to the wearing of masks in public areas which would include public accessible bars.