



Nevada Association of Counties
304 South Minnesota Street
Carson City, NV 89703
(775) 883-7863

www.nvnaco.org

September 9, 2020

COVID-19 Mitigation and Management Task Force
VIA: Email

Dear Task Force Members,

We send this letter on behalf of the Nevada Association of Counties (NACO) Board of Directors, to express our concerns about the continued high turnaround time for COVID-19 test results from the Nevada State Lab as well as other labs that process COVID-19 test results for Nevadans. We understand that this is a complex issue that has been an ongoing problem since the beginning of the COVID-19 outbreak. Though COVID-19 test turnaround times have decreased, especially in the urban areas of the State, this issue still impacts efforts to reduce the spread of the virus. Long turnaround times can be a deterrent for residents to get tested and significantly hamper contact tracing efforts. As of last week, some counties were still seeing delays of 5-7 days. We would like to ask whether the COVID-19 Mitigation and Management Task Force might be the right group to take a look at this issue with a fresh perspective, as well as to recognize the limitations that insufficient lab capacity puts on local public health efforts. As the Task Force knows, all 17 of Nevada's counties have been critical partners in the COVID-19 response, and the collaboration between counties and the State has been important in coordinating the public health efforts that are mitigating the spread of the virus. As a partner we request your continued attention to and work on the issue of test turnaround time. We would point to the success of Clark County in ramping up lab capacity in Southern Nevada through UMC as a positive example. NACO would also offer any support and assistance that we can on potential proposed solutions.

We know that the members of the Task Force, along with DPBH staff and the Governor's office, have worked tirelessly to mitigate the spread of COVID-19 as well as to coordinate with counties and other stakeholders on statewide efforts. We thank you for all your hard work and look forward to continued collaboration on this issue and on the COVID-19 public health response in general.

Thank you for your attention to this important matter.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "J. French", is written over a light blue circular stamp.

Commissioner Jim French
NACO President