



WASHOE COUNTY ASSESSMENT – September 9, 2020

1. Overall Assessment

COVID-19 is widespread in Washoe County and is mostly occurring through community transmission that is not tied to known cases of infection. Infection occurs throughout the locations that individuals visit in the course of commerce, employment, and recreation.

We currently have sufficient testing capacity. To address issues that have occurred with lab turn-around times for test results we have contracted with Charles River Labs (CRL) to utilize their newly developed local testing capacity to analyze a portion of the specimens collected at the Health District Point of Screening and Testing (POST) drive through testing site. Specimens from POST collection are being sent to CRL several days per week to utilize their available capacity and 48-72 hour turnaround for results. Specimens from other days are sent to the Nevada State Public Health Lab which is not currently backlogged for testing.

Washoe County has remained at relatively low-test positivity rates and is approaching the State's 7% threshold. The new cases per 100,000 population has also been on a declining trend. While the number of tests per 100,000 population has dipped below 150 per day, this appears to be a short-term trend with testing over the past week averaging over 212 per day. Plenty of additional testing capacity remains available at the POST.

The backlog of cases requiring disease investigation is being reduced as additional staff through UNR continue to join the Epi teams and the contact tracers available through the State contract with Deloitte are being utilized for that purpose.


The County has contracted with marketing firms to improve messaging and community engagement to suppress the spread of disease. Private gatherings are identified as a type of event that is contributing to significant spread and where contacts with infected individuals can be identified. Outbreaks also continue to occur in households following one of the members becoming infected. Messaging regarding avoiding gatherings over the Labor Day holiday to reduce disease transmission occurred through press events, media releases, and social messaging.

2. Hospital Capacity

Status of staffed ICU beds, ventilators, staffing, medication treatments, and PPE.

As of September 07, the relative burden on northern Nevada hospitals as a result of COVID-19 is 2.4% (hospitalized/ licensed bed count). Within the intensive care unit, the percentage of relative burden is 8% (COVID-19 hospitalized ICU/ licensed ICU beds). Staffed ICU beds in Washoe County hospital occupancy rates are 60% and 39% respectively for general hospital and intensive care units. If COVID-19 admissions increase, staffing will become limited. If this were to occur, hospitals within Washoe County are prepared to change staff models to continue to provide care for citizens and visitors. Ventilator usage is at 19% of capacity; 5.7% of those ventilators are required by COVID patients.

PPE is currently being purchased by healthcare facilities, as well as medication treatments.

 Daily Hospital Stats 8 September 2020			On hand supply of Ventilator Supplies	N95 mask	Other respirators such as PAPRs	surgical and procedure masks	eye protection	single use gowns	gloves
			PPE STATUS LEVELS						
Northern Nevada Medical Center	1	Washoe	15-30 Days	>30 Days	>30 Days	>30 Days	>30 Days	>30 Days	>30 Days
Renown South Meadows	1	Washoe	>30 Days	>30 Days	>30 Days	>30 Days	>30 Days	>30 Days	>30 Days
Saint Mary's Regional Medical Center	1	Washoe	>30 Days	>30 Days	>30 Days	>30 Days	>30 Days	>30 Days	>30 Days
VA Sierra Nevada Health Care System	1	Washoe	>30 Days	>30 Days	>30 Days	>30 Days	>30 Days	>30 Days	>30 Days
Incline Village Community Hospital	1	Washoe	NA	>30 Days	15-30 Days	>30 Days	>30 Days	>30 Days	15-30 Days
Renown Regional Medical Center	1	Washoe	>30 Days	>30 Days	>30 Days	>30 Days	>30 Days	>30 Days	>30 Days

In Washoe County, Renown is allocated a set amount of Remdesivir. The regional hospitals (not just hospitals within Washoe County) have discussed the mechanism for Renown to sell them the medication if a patient qualifies so a hospital can keep a patient as long as they are able to provide the appropriate level of care. Renown may only sell to hospitals within Nevada and cannot sell across state lines.

Status of Alternate Care Facility planning, staffing, and implementation.

Renown Regional Medical center has converted the first and second floors of their Mill Street parking structure into a sophisticated, cross-functional Alternate Care Site. This location was equipped with waterproof flooring, electrical infrastructure, lighting, water, flushable toilets, technology and wall partitions in addition to beds and basic patient care support equipment. This increased their ability to cope with the spread of COVID-19 by about 173%.

Assessment of overall hospital capacity and metrics that will determine expansion to Alternate Care Facilities.

Washoe County Hospitals currently have good capacity and the Nevada Hospital Association reports the northern Nevada healthcare infrastructure remains in good condition. The Alternate Care site at Renown is already built and will remain in place until next year. If conditions significantly change, discussions for further expansion will take place. Washoe County has plans for establishment of an additional alternative care facility at the Reno-Sparks Convention Center that were prepared by the Army Corps of Engineers and has already purchased beds and equipment if the facility needs to be established.

3. Access to Personal Protective Equipment

Status of Regional PPE on-hand:

Warehouse Inventory	
Description	Count
Coveralls - Medical	86
Disinfectant - Hand Sanitizer - 12 oz	166
Disinfectant - Hand Sanitizer - 16 oz	27
Disinfectant - Hand Sanitizer - 128 oz	4
Faceshields	566
Gloves - Medical - XL	0
Gloves - Medical - L	1500
Gloves - Medical - M	600
Gloves - Medical - S	0

Gloves - Food Grade - S	2000
Gloves - Food Grade - M	0
Gloves - Food Grade - L	4000
Gloves - Food Grade - XL	6600
Gowns - Cloth - (GC)	150
Gowns - Medical	0
Gowns - Non-medical	100
Gowns - Plastic (LL)	13
Mask - Level 1/Surgical	1500
Masks - N95 Aura 3m 9211+	2140
Masks - KN95 3M 9541V	207
Masks - KN95 3M 9501+	50
Masks - Delta PFF2 Small	7
Masks - KN95 Washoe	36,750
Masks - Swedish Dish Cloth	3,500
Masks - Cotton - Haynes	3,500
Pads - Alcohol Prep	160

Distribution Priorities:

Should multiple competing requests for PPE come through to the region the priority for distribution would be based on emergent need. For instance:

1. COVID Positive Facility
2. Hospitals and First Responders (LE/EMS/FIRE)
3. Urgent Care
4. Secondary medical facilities such as rehabilitation facilities

Current PPE Assessment:

Our current assessment is that surgical gowns and PAPRs are still incredibly difficult to source on the open market.

Metrics for instituting emergency resource procedures in the future include the inability to source a critical safety item on the open market.

Health District PPE:

Item	Unit	Number of Boxes	Number/Unit	Total
Nitrile Gloves	BX		Varies	308,300
Exam Gowns	EA		Varies	4,832
Face Shields	EA		Varies	5,148
Surgical Masks	BX	40	100	3,950
Tychem Suits	BX	67	12	804

PAPR Head Coverings and Hoses - assorted	EA		Varies	229
N95 Masks	EA		Varies	41,700
Ordered				
PAPR Headcovers	BX	3	5	15

4. Testing Capacity

Testing Criteria:

Testing is currently open to individuals seeking testing whether they have symptoms or are asymptomatic. In order to ensure testing of priority populations there is a mechanism to close testing to asymptomatic individuals if capacity for testing all individuals is exceeded. In this case testing is prioritized for symptomatic individuals, case contacts, and priority populations of first responders, healthcare workers, staff of long-term care and assisted living facilities, and RTC drivers. The Health District has contracted with REMSA for additional personnel to assist with specimen collection at the POST and hired additional nursing staff for this purpose. Testing is scheduled through a call center or online. Testing is provided at no charge. The 15 Call Center staff conduct the scheduling, provide the lab paperwork and labeling for the testing and provide the follow-up reporting of lab results. REMSA is on contract for an external 24/7 call center to assist people with the risk assessment process available on the website.

Number of People tested in a day/week:

For the week ending on September 8, 7,116 test results were reported for Washoe County, or an average of 212.6 tests per day per 100,000 population. This is a significant increase in test results being reported over the past week.

The demand for testing from the public at the POST has declined over the past several weeks. The increase in testing availability through the areas healthcare system may be a factor in this. The POST operated each weekday except Tuesday September 1 during the week of August 31 to allow the Health District to catch up from scheduled downtime over the weekend of the Accela software platform used for POST scheduling, paperwork, and results reporting. The POST was closed on September 7 for the Labor Day holiday. Operations each weekday has now resumed.

The Washoe County Health District provides drive through testing at the POST located at the Reno-Sparks Livestock Events Center. The standard POST capacity is 525 tests per day, however, actual testing conducted has exceeded 700 tests per day at that site. Recently fewer than 300 people per day are seeking testing through the POST.

Targeted Testing Efforts for high-risk communities, outbreak intervention, and other efforts:

WCHD continues to coordinate the distribution of test kits, provided by the Nevada State Public Health Lab (NSPHL), to skilled nursing facilities in addition to other senior living facilities. Once a medical director is identified for a facility, WCHD facilitates the establishment of a client account with NSPHL and subsequent Lab Requisition Form. WCHD then provides instruction for completion of the lab requisition form, specimen collection, and handling/delivery directly to NSPHL for analysis. Test kits, labels and collection bags are provided upon request. The test kit distribution numbers are provided on the daily ICS 209 Form.

To date, WCHD has distributed 3,874 kits to skilled nursing and assisted living facilities. A number of facilities have selected to receive a direct distribution of kits from NSPHL since they now have client accounts established. As outbreaks are identified through contact tracing and disease investigations, contact is made with the facility to ensure they have access to testing and offer to set up a client account to ensure a sustainable supply of test kits.

WCHD has provided 450 test kits to Fire Departments for testing their personnel including Reno, Sparks, Truckee Meadows Fire Protection District, North Lake Tahoe Fire, Reno-Tahoe Airport Authority Fire. REMSA has been provided with 125 test kits and have also provided testing to Nevada Highway Patrol and Nevada State Parole and Probation. North Lake Tahoe Fire also used 400 kits for the Incline Village Community Testing and TMFPD received 100 kits for the Gerlach Community Testing event. Reno Police Department, Washoe County Sheriff's Office and Jan Evans Juvenile Detention Facility have received 1,400 test kits. In addition Sparks Police Department and Sparks Fire has conducted most of their testing through the drive through POST.

WCHD conducted a Mobile POST for the homeless population at the Reno Events Center on May 14 collecting 108 specimens. Mobile POST operations were also conducted for families placed at Our Place Family Shelter on May 19 and 20. On May 28 a Mobile POST was conducted at a senior living facility testing 239 individuals. Resources to conduct Mobile POST testing were critically reduced as the need for contact tracers and disease investigators increased as a result of the virus surging in the community. With the extension of the Title 32 Orders for the National Guard through December 31, WCHD may have the capacity to offer Mobile POST services again in the near future.

Washoe County also conducted mobile POST operations in June that provided testing in Gerlach through the Truckee Meadows Fire Protection District, and in Incline Village through the North Lake Tahoe Fire Protection District and Incline Village Community Hospital. The County also provided support to Health Plan of Nevada for a mobile POST they conducted at Miguel Ribera Park in the 89502 zip code area.

In addition, WCHD has a contract with REMSA for homebound testing of high-risk, vulnerable individuals identified through the risk assessment and scheduling process. Testing is conducted every Tuesday and Thursday collecting on average between 10 and 20 specimens.

In order to reduce throughput and potential backlogs for receiving test results from the Nevada State Public Health Lab the County is utilizing Charles River Labs (CRL) to test specimens collected at the POST two days per week. NSPHL has agreed to provide the test collection kits for the CRL analysis. The WCHD is working with CRL to deliver additional specimens to their lab for testing to further decrease the throughput at the NSPHL from POST operations to allow them to maintain good turn-around times. CRL believes they currently have capacity to conduct approximately 950 tests per week. CRL intends to expand capacity to 1900 tests per week by the end of September which can be made available to the County as it is developed.

5. Case Investigation and Contract Tracing

Current Contract Tracing Workforce:

We currently have 48 disease investigators on staff, with approximately 30 working on any given day through a seven day week. Thirty-nine staff are employed through the UNR Nevada Public Health Training Center. We are currently working with UNR to add 16 additional disease investigation staff in September to reduce the backlog in case investigations currently experienced. There are five National Guard members and six WCHD staff members that are also serving as disease investigation staff. They are supported by four staff epidemiologists. A new epidemiology position dedicated to the COVID response will be staffed on September 14.

Calling of case contacts identified through investigations has been handed off to Deloitte contact tracers through the State contract.

Positive Cases Contacted within 24 hours:

Positive cases are currently contacted within 24 hours of receipt of lab results to provide their results, instruct them to self-isolate and to provide them with an informational package of materials for them and to share with their employer and close contacts.

Washoe County continues to improve the ability to conduct disease investigations to identify close contacts and establish ongoing contact in a timely manner. Additional staffing recruitment which is underway will further improve this response. Once close contacts are identified – we assume Deloitte is attempting to reach those contacts within 24 hours to provide notification for quarantine and monitoring after we send out a daily line list.

Four team members from each disease investigation team (10-12 members in each team) have been assigned to pediatric cases. As positive results are reported for children these disease

investigators prioritize and expedite the disease investigation and case interview to ensure the case is isolated and close contacts are identified. The information regarding the positive case and any close contacts excluded from school and under quarantine are provided to the school district or applicable private or charter school to ensure the contacts are notified and the infected isolated student and quarantined students are quickly excluded from school until released by the Health District.

The status of completed and uncompleted disease investigations is illustrated in the table below, which was current as of the evening of September 1, 2020. The number of new positive cases reported each day varies significantly and delays result when a large number of cases are reported in a single day. Continued efforts by the public to prevent spread are necessary to be able to have the daily case count reduced to a level where testing and contact tracing is a viable strategy for control.

Date Reported	Total Reported	Completed	Remaining	% Investigated
9/2/20	68	67	1	99%
9/3/20	64	64	0	100%
9/4/20	89	89	0	100%
9/5/20	27	27	0	100%
9/6/20	141	80	61	57%
9/7/20	27	6	21	22%
9/8/20	59	6	53	10%
Total	475	339	136	71%

Overview of Contact Tracing Findings:

The disease investigations reveal that community spread is occurring and people become exposed and infected with COVID-19 by being out and interacting with others in a variety of settings including workplaces, retail and other service outlets, recreation/dining, and gatherings. Private gatherings in which people are coming into close contact and interaction with others (included extended family members) outside of their immediate household is an area that seems to be a common high-risk activity. The region is experiencing party house activity in which large gatherings are occurring at private residences without fire marshal capacity limitations, regulatory oversight, or requirements for social distancing. Whether contracting COVID-19 through private gatherings or from the other activities described above, the other common setting for outbreaks is within households. Once a household member is infected it is likely to spread within the household.

Some workplace settings have experienced spread within a workplace, but the types of workplace settings in which this occurs are quite variable. Disease investigations reveal that

workplaces in which more than one positive cases were identified during the past week include workplaces in the following sectors: education, healthcare, manufacturing, service, warehouse/distribution, and leisure/hospitality. During this reporting week the only organizations that had more than two positive COVID-19 cases identified were the University of Nevada, Reno (55), and the Washoe County School District (10). Vulnerable populations in skilled nursing and memory care facilities and their staff have also been found to be sources of outbreaks.

6. Protection of Vulnerable Populations

Efforts and interventions in skilled nursing facilities

See the information provided on testing, above. Skilled nursing facilities are licensed by the State and the State has the lead in working with the facility on outbreaks and for patients involved. The Health District is responsible for the disease investigation and contact tracing of staff that test positive for COVID-19. In addition to providing or facilitating access to test collection kits, the County has also provided PPE resources to these facilities.

Efforts and Interventions in Correctional Facilities

The Washoe County Sheriff's Office in partnership with the State of Nevada Department of Health and Human Services, Washoe County Health District, and following CDC guidelines has implemented a number of precautionary procedures to include but not limit to:

- Single point access with disinfection and health screening for anyone coming into our facility
- Education and training for staff and inmates through CDC and Washoe County Health in regard to identification, disinfection and washing hands
- Established a quarantine/isolation unit to ensure inmates with ILI (influenza-like illness) or symptoms were immediately isolated along with others in close contact with them
- COVID-19 testing of staff and inmates
- Identification of our high-risk inmate population
- Round the clock disinfection of the facility by inmate work crews
- All housing units supplied with extra soap and hand sanitizer
- Discontinued all contact visitation
- Cancellation of all inmate transports outside of the Washoe County Jail
- Increased the number of video courts and arraignments at the Washoe County Jail
- Cancelled inmate fee for medical consults
- Approved/coordinated (with contractors) free email, phone and video conference calls with loved ones to reduce anxiety
- Reduced our population from an average daily population (ADP) of 1100 inmates to an average ADP of 780 inmates
- Developed a quarantine plan for all new arrestees who are booked into the Washoe County Jail:
 - Every new inmate is quarantined with other from the same 24-Hour booking period

- Every new inmate is tested for COVID-19 before being placed in general population housing.
- All inmates are now required to wear a facemask any time they leave their assigned housing unit
- Court, medical, programs, counseling, etc.
- To date, we have tested more than 600 inmates and staff. During that time 6 inmates upon their arrival at the Detention Facility self-identified as being positive COVID-19. All safety precautions were implemented, and the inmates were tested and isolated within the facility until their release.
- To date, we have not had a single inmate contract COVID-19 while incarcerated within the Washoe County Detention Facility.
- Additionally, 5 Deputy Sheriff's from the Washoe County Detention Facility have tested positive; after each positive test, a full investigation was conducted, and measures were taken to protect inmates and staff who had close contact.

Efforts and Interventions in High-Risk Communities

County has worked with regional partners to prevent outbreaks in the homeless population. A temporary men's shelter location has been established on 4th Street which provides for six foot separation of the residents. The new Our Place women's and family shelter facility has also been opened and is providing housing in socially distanced settings for this population. Further expansion of capacity in additional buildings is underway.

Housing for homeless people that had COVID-19 symptoms or tested positive for COVID-19 has been provided through a contract with WellCare to provide beds and non-hospital care for this population. A contract with REMSA has been established for transport of these individuals and the WellCare housing has also been utilized for homeless individuals being discharged from hospitals that are not yet released from isolation.

The community has worked together regarding encampments to attempt to avoid displacing this homeless population when possible in accordance with the CDC guidance. Handwashing stations, portable toilets, and clean-up has been provided around these encampments. Some encampments have had to be addressed due to other public safety threats they posed. This activity was coordinated with partners and outreach to provide services and offer testing and housing was conducted.

7. Enforcement

TOTAL COMPLAINTS BY MONTH (City of Reno, City of Sparks and Unincorporated County):

March = 409

April = 506

May = 202

June = 248

July = 241

August = 53

September = 3 (City of Reno, City of Sparks and Unincorporated County)

Total Complaints March to September 4, 2020 = 1,662

RANDOM CHECKS

July = 29 (Unincorporated County only)

From August, numbers include City of Reno, City of Sparks and Unincorporated County

August = 246

September = 108

Total Random Checks for July – September 4, 2020 = 383

Additional Enforcement Measures in place:

City of Reno:

To further enhance regional COVID-19 mitigation enforcement efforts the Reno Police Department will continue to take to address house parties that violate the Governors directive. On Friday and Saturday evenings the Reno Police Department will continue to deploy "party car" officers utilizing overtime to address parties in Reno neighborhoods. Although a lot of the efforts will surround the University of Nevada Reno which lies in the Reno Police Department's jurisdiction, they will also respond to reports of party type disturbances throughout the city of Reno and address any violations that present COVID-19 risks. Effective immediately the City of Sparks has also agreed to step up enforcement activity within their jurisdiction by adopting best practices currently being utilized in Washoe County and the Reno.

City of Sparks:

Monday, 8/31/20:

- *Sparks staff conducted 33 inspections.*
- *All 33 inspections were random*
- *3 of the 33 inspections were found to be in violation of the Governor's directive.*

Tuesday, 9/1/20:

- *Sparks staff conducted 26 inspections.*
- *1 inspection was complaint based. Leaving 25 random inspections.*
- *1 of the 26 inspections were found to be in violation of the Governor's directive.*

Wednesday, 9/2/20:

- *Sparks staff conducted 14 inspections.*
- *All 14 inspections were random.*
- *0 of the 14 inspections were found to be in violation of the Governor's directive.*

Thursday, 9/3/20:

- *Sparks staff conducted 11 inspections.*
- *3 inspections were complaint based. Leaving 8 random inspections.*
- *0 of the 11 inspections were found to be in violation of the Governor's directive.*

Friday, 9/4/20:

- *Sparks staff conducted 10 inspections.*
- *All 10 inspections were random.*
- *1 of the 10 inspections were found to be in violation of the Governor's directive.*

The weeks total is 94 inspections for COVID related violations. 5 of the 94 inspections were found to have violations to the Governor's directive.

All businesses that have been found in violation of the Governor's directive will be sent notices of violation via certified mail and US mail. The notice of violation will require immediate correction by the business owner and will be subject to follow up inspection. Should subsequent inspection indicate that a business remains in violation of the Governor's directives, the City Manager may revoke or suspend a business license pursuant to Title 5 of the Sparks Municipal Code. A copy of the notice of violation letter is attached.

Additionally, Mayor Lawson will visit each business identified by Sparks staff as having been in violation over the last two weeks to seek voluntary compliance with Governor Sisolak's directives.

Unincorporated Washoe County:

Code Enforcement officers continue to perform two random checks per officer per day, as practical.

Regional Plan:

The three regional entities are currently evaluating the implementation of a weekly benchmark toward inspections and random business checks for compliance. The plan will be brought forward within the next week.

8. County Action Plan

Based on current contact tracing investigations and enforcement inspections, we believe that private gatherings are the primary identifiable source of the increase in cases and the positivity rate in our region. To address this, the Washoe County Incident Management Team (IMT) which includes the City of Reno, Sparks, Washoe County and the Washoe County Health District (WCHD) are collaborating to develop and implement a COVID-19 community engagement campaign to encourage Northern Nevadans to comply with CDC and WCHD guidance for social distancing, wearing a mask avoiding private parties and gatherings and other measures to stop the spread of COVID-19 in our community. Given the urgency of the situation, the IMT partners have agreed to jointly use up to \$300k in CARES Act funding and utilize the IMT emergency powers declaration to expedite this process.

The Regional Information Center successfully on boarded two public relations firms in August to aid in public outreach to the community regarding COVID-19 health and safety measures. The firms are KPS3 in Reno, NV and BVK, a national public relations firm based in Milwaukee, WI. Both firms bring extensive experience in COVID-19 outreach and combined will give the region effective and targeted creative concepts and expertise in how to reach our target audiences. Based on local research conducted by the agencies the audiences where the biggest impact can be made are the Hispanic population, and the 20-40 age group that makes up the majority of cases, along with businesses and other vulnerable populations. Creative concepts will be presented this within the next week for approval and deployment.

In addition, the jurisdictions will continue to work on COVID-19 mask and social distancing enforcement in our local businesses while escalating enforcement on resisting businesses to local law enforcement or OSHA if necessary.

The region is messaging on the potential of private gatherings to result in disease outbreaks, and is advising against private gatherings, planning carefully to avoid the spread of disease if they do occur, and to limit such gatherings to ten people or less. This messaging has been heightened to message to avoid private gatherings for the Labor Day holiday and if they are held to plan carefully and maintain social distancing and precautionary measures while limiting them to ten people or less.

The County has proposed that bars be allowed to reopen as a measure to mitigate the disease transmission that is known to be occurring from private gatherings. The reopening would occur with bar owners and their employees working closely with the Cities and County to operate under strict standards to prevent the transmission of COVID-19 and provide a controlled environment for small gatherings of six or fewer people as a mitigation measure for private gatherings that otherwise occur in unregulated environments.

The jurisdictions are now collaborating with the Washoe County Bar/Taproom Coalition that represents over 30 bars and tap rooms in the region. The coalition has agreed to proactively comply with Washoe County Health District's COVID-19 operating standards as the attached information indicates. The jurisdictions and the Coalition have agreed to collaborate on informational webinars to educate local bars, restaurants and tap rooms on the operating guideline expectations and answer questions.

Please reference the attached documents (1) Washoe County Bar Reopening guidelines and (2) Washoe County Bar and Tap Room Coalition Agreement for Operating for additional details.