



**NEVADA  
HEALTH  
RESPONSE**

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

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**COVID-19 Mitigation and Management Task Force approves  
Clark County and Elko County plans to reopen bars due to  
improved data and mitigation efforts**

CARSON CITY, NV — Today, the COVID-19 Mitigation and Management Task Force, chaired by Nevada COVID-19 Response Director Caleb Cage and created via Directive 030, met with six counties that have been flagged for having an elevated risk of transmission of COVID-19.

Based on data provided this morning by the Department of Health and Human Services, three counties are no longer meeting two of the three criteria for having an elevated risk of transmission: Eureka County, Churchill County, and Washoe County.

Clark County and Elko County remain on the list, and Lyon County and Mineral County have been added to the list. Lyon and Mineral will be required to submit an assessment and action plan to the Task Force next week. No changes were made today to the existing action plans for Churchill, Eureka, Lyon, and Washoe counties.

The Task Force took action on Clark and Elko's plans to reopen bars, pubs, taverns, breweries, distilleries, and wineries with additional measures in

place, including increased enforcement efforts throughout the counties. These new action plans will take effect at 11:59 p.m. on Sunday, Sept. 20.

At a minimum, the reopened businesses must follow statewide standards and enforcement measures, which include required face coverings for employees and customers and a 50 percent capacity limit.

Due to increased restrictions being lifted on all bars statewide, following today's actions by the Task Force for Clark and Elko, owners and patrons are encouraged to reacquaint themselves with the statewide standards in the following guidance documents: [Bars, Pubs, Breweries, Distilleries, Wineries, Taverns & Bar Areas within Restaurants](#), and [Bar Mitigation Measures and Restrictions Updates](#).

The following is a summary of the information presented by Clark and Elko to the Task Force at today's public meeting and the actions taken by the Task Force.

## **CLARK COUNTY**

### Assessment Summary:

- Clark County continues to meet 2 of the 3 elevated disease transmission criteria.
- Clark's test positivity rate dropped 2.6% since last week (now at 8.6%), demonstrating positive returns on its comprehensive action plan previously approved by the Task Force. Clark's case rate continues to drop and is above the threshold for the average number of tests per day.
- Clark reports sufficient hospital capacity throughout the region.
- Clark County is currently conducting a testing program with the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services (HHS) and the State of Nevada to administer up to 60,000 additional drive-through

coronavirus tests over 14 days at three separate locations throughout the Las Vegas Valley at no cost to individuals. The additional testing runs through September 18.

#### Approved Action Plan:

- This week, the Task Force approved Clark County's plan to reopen bars, pubs, taverns, breweries, distilleries and wineries with certain restrictions in place, including increased enforcement measures. This measure will go into effect at 11:59 p.m. on Sunday, Sept. 20 and will include input on increased enforcement and mitigation measures. At a minimum, the reopened businesses must follow statewide standards and enforcement measures, which include, but is not limited to required face coverings for employees and customers and a 50 percent capacity limit.
- State officials will continue to work with Clark on enforcement and mitigation efforts to help further reduce the county's positivity test rate and case rate.
- State officials have requested proactive mitigation plans in the event of increased positivity test rates and case rates going forward.

## **ELKO COUNTY**

#### Assessment Summary:

- Elko continues to meet 2 of the 3 elevated disease transmission criteria.
- In the last week, Elko's positivity rate has dropped from 12.6% to 6.2%, demonstrating positive returns on its comprehensive action plan previously approved by the Task Force.
- Testing has increased in Elko through existing local resources, a private vendor, and additional resources requested from the State.

### Approved Action Plan:

- This week, the Task Force approved Elko County's plan to reopen bars, pubs, taverns, breweries, distilleries and wineries with certain restrictions in place, including increased enforcement measures. This measure will go into effect at 11:59 p.m. on Sunday, Sept. 20 and will include input on increased enforcement and mitigation measures. At a minimum, the reopened businesses must follow statewide standards and enforcement measures, which include, but is not limited to required face coverings for employees and customers and a 50 percent capacity limit.
- State officials will continue to work with Elko on enforcement and mitigation plans moving forward to continue to keep the test positivity rate down and to increase testing within the county.
- State officials have requested proactive mitigation plans in the event of increased positivity test rates and case rates going forward.

Based on [Directive 030](#), the COVID-19 Mitigation and Management Task Force is authorized by the Governor to review and then accept or modify the plans proposed by the elevated risk counties.

All plans, and implementation dates, will not be considered finalized until action to approve is taken by the Task Force.

All counties -- regardless of risk level -- must maintain the statewide baseline mitigation measures, including wearing face coverings, limits on gathering sizes and capacity in businesses.

More information about the task force can be found online on the Nevada Health Response page at [nvhealthresponse.nv.gov/](https://nvhealthresponse.nv.gov/), under "News and Information" and "COVID Task Force Assessment."

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