



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

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

### **Revised September 16, 2020**

#### **OVERALL ASSESSMENT**

Elko County is the fourth largest county in the continental United States covering just over 11 million acres or 17,000 square miles with over 70% of our land being federally managed land. Elko County has 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. Approximately 90% of the County's population resides within a 20-mile radius of the City of Elko. 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 20% 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.

Elko County has made great strides in slowing the spread of the virus and reducing the number of active cases. Our test positivity rate decreased more than 50% in the last report and more than 65% from two weeks ago.

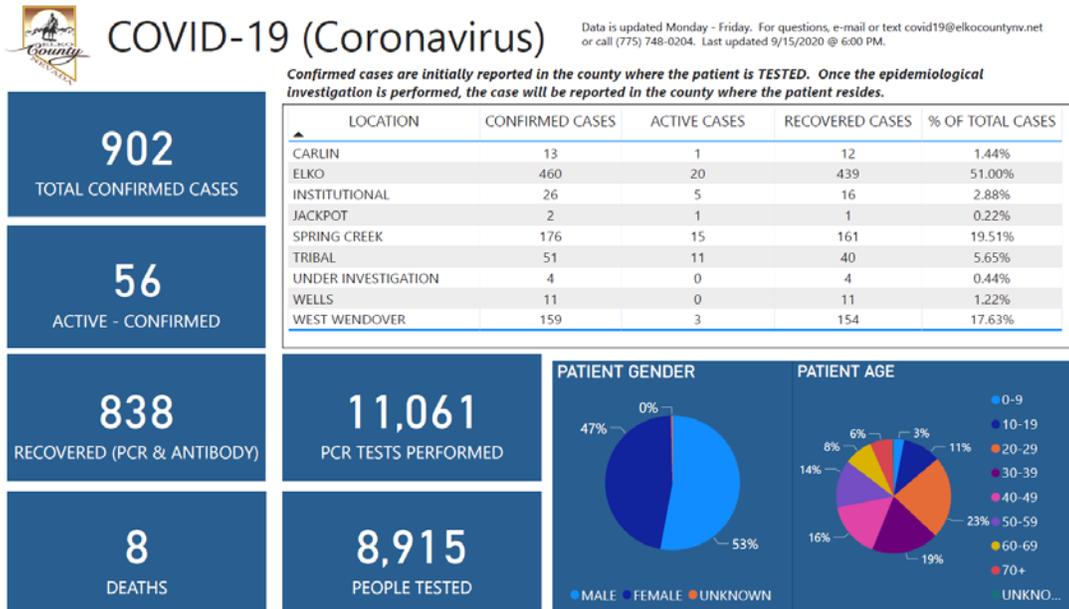
<b>Date of Report</b>	<b>Average # of Tests per Day per 100,000</b>	<b>Case Rate per 100,000</b>	<b>Test Positivity</b>
<b>8/6/2020</b>	134.3	478.3	15.0%
<b>8/13/2020</b>	125.1	417.0	15.1%
<b>8/19/2020</b>	126.9	445.6	14.8%
<b>8/26/2020</b>	119.8	443.8	16.8%
<b>8/31/2020</b>	105.2	392.8	17.9%
<b>9/7/2020</b>	85.5	361.9	12.6%
<b>9/14/2020</b>	111.6	232.8	6.2%

We recognize we still have challenges ahead. We are pleased to announce that one of our local urgent care clinics will begin providing testing to anyone who would like to be tested effective Monday, September 21, 2020. We are also preparing to communicate to other local providers encouraging them to test anyone who would like to be tested as well in effort to increase testing across the County. In addition, we will communicate this opportunity to our communities via various social media outlets once final details are wrapped up.

Result times from the Nevada State Public Health lab have been averaging 2 to 3 days in the last two weeks, however recently we have received results closer to 4 days from testing. This turnaround time must be sustained in order for us to have success in implementing community-based testing or increased testing effort altogether.

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*. The State team is developing a process and reporting template to capture negative rapid tests which we will implement with the providers at the local level. To date, we are aware of at least 1,400 negative tests which have not been included in the metrics above. This ultimately affects each of the metrics being monitored on the County Tracker.

Over the last 30 days (August 17 to September 15), Elko County is reporting a total of 258 new cases, 291 recovered cases, and 5 deaths. More importantly Elko County currently has 56 active cases, which has significantly decreased and is the lowest number of active cases reported since June 24.



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 September 14, 2020.

As of this week, two patients have required the use of a ventilator, none of which are currently admitted at NNRH.

As of September 14, 2020, based on the daily report from Nevada Hospital Association:

- 19% of Licensed Inpatient Beds are being utilized, down from 20% last week.
  - COVID-19 patients account for 5.3% of licensed beds being occupied.
- ICU beds – 7 licensed beds, 2 occupied
- Ventilators – 6 machines , 0 in use
- 4 positive cases are currently hospitalized
  - 3 at NNRH
  - 1 at University of Utah

All Highland Manor patients which were being cared for at NNRH due to staffing issues have been transitioned back to the skilled nursing facility.

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.**

NNRH can expand capacity within their own facility, including obtaining additional ventilators, if necessary. However, full implementation of NNRH’s Surge Plan, even if only expanding within the currently facility, will require additional staff.

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

Elko County has worked with NNRH to ensure appropriate metrics have been identified which determine the implementation of the 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 even with three 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 two confirmed cases and West Wendover has had 158 confirmed cases to date, with three 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:**

Elko County believes from a disease mitigation and public health standpoint that it is important to strategize testing efforts based on identifying and treating those who are symptomatic, are close contacts of confirmed cases, and to protect vulnerable populations and healthcare workers, rather than testing to meet a criteria or metric. However, in effort to prevent additional restrictions or mitigation measures which will inevitably create further economic impacts to our county, we are committed to increasing testing through sustainable means and not one-time events.

**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 has improved, sustained improvement is important in the overall mitigation of the virus. 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

*Effective September 21, 2020, we are encouraging providers to test anyone who would like to be tested for COVID-19. A communication will be sent to providers and community members by the end of the week. We will use various media outlets including the Elko County COVID-19 Response Facebook page and County website.*

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

Elko County does not believe the requirement to complete an average of 150 tests per day per 100,000 is achievable. This may be a more reasonable criteria if the vulnerable populations under State authority are being tested on a regular basis, like in prison systems in White Pine and Pershing counties.

Based on the data provided by NV DPBH, Elko County has averaged 111.6 tests per day per 100,000 over the last 21 days, which does not include the negative point of care PCR tests.

Turnaround time from the Nevada State Public Health Lab is currently averaging about four days.

**Efforts to Increase Testing**

Effective September 21, 2020, Medallus Urgent Care has agreed to test any individual who would like to have a COVID-19 test for any reason. The provider offers services seven days a week, which allows for flexibility to support vulnerable populations and first responders, if necessary. The provider has agreements with two corporate/private labs and is in process of obtaining and implementing point of care testing in the coming weeks. CARES Act funding received by Elko County will be utilized to support this initiative. We plan to communicate this to communities through various media outlets.

In addition, we are working with a local partner to coordinate a drive-thru style Point of Screening and Testing (POST) one day a week for asymptomatic individuals. We have submitted a request to Nevada National Guard for assistance in this effort and will evaluate adding days based on utilization. We plan to communicate this to communities through various media outlets once we confirm the final details of these events.

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

Elko County is monitoring local data for trends to identify outbreaks. We have on hand over 1,000 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 AbbottID NOW 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.

ECSD is open to hosting testing events at various school locations to screen and test staff in effort to prevent cases within the district.

### **Skilled Nursing Facility Outbreak**

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

An outbreak was identified in the skilled nursing facility. A total of 44 individuals have tested positive, including 25 residents, 1 assisted living resident, and 18 staff, ***which equates to nearly 14% of new cases since August 12, 2020.*** To date, there has been five fatalities related to this outbreak, which accounts for nearly 63% of the County's deaths. The last positive resident tested on September 1, 2020. The last positive staff tested September 10, 2020. Both staff and residents have been isolated and continue to be monitored to prevent community spread.

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 by the regulatory agency(ies). Nevada Health Centers will conduct rapid testing as capacity allows.

We also continue to closely monitor the City of West Wendover and keep in close contact with the Mayor and local health care providers even though there are only three 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 appropriately 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. Positive cases and close contacts were instructed to self-isolate and were closely monitored until recovered.

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 of the County's best defenses and most effective strategies against spreading the virus in our communities. Twenty percent of the County's confirmed cases have been identified through familial relationships and contact tracing. Positive cases continue to be instructed to self-isolate and are monitored regularly by the contact tracing team. In addition, Elko County has provided communication about the new contact tracing app, COVID Trace.

#### **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. Cases are instructed to self-isolate and are monitored regularly. They are also contacting all close contacts within 48 hours so long as they have accurate contact information.

Elko County is transitioning to the Deloitte software this week. We are currently working through technical challenges with the State team.

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

### **Skilled Nursing Facility Outbreak**

An outbreak was identified in the skilled nursing facility. A total of 44 individuals have tested positive, including 26 residents and 18 staff. The State Epidemiologist's team initiated an investigation to determine the source of the outbreak and an inspection by the HCQC team was completed the week of August 31 to ensure the appropriate infection control process was being followed, etc.

Ultimately, the State is the regulatory authority and is accountable to provide support and mitigate the spread of the virus in this facility. While an inspection was completed more than a two weeks ago, Elko County, more importantly, Dr. Putnam, has not been advised of the findings, yet is empowered to provide support to mitigate the spread of the disease in this vulnerable population.

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**

Over the last few weeks we have been monitoring a localized outbreak of cases that are related to one organization. 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. The organization developed an action or intervention plan with increased mitigation measures based on number of confirmed cases in a work location. Positive cases are required to isolate and close contacts are quickly identified and directed to test. Increased mitigation measures include daily health screenings and questionnaires for employees and visitors, increased frequency of sanitizing and cleaning, reiterating public health guidance to slow the spread of the virus, and enhanced penalties for employees not wearing appropriate PPE (masks). 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. As a result of implementing increased mitigation measures, the number of new cases is steadily declining week over week. We have developed a good working relationship with this organization and will continue to monitor the progress and implement additional measures or provide additional support as necessary.

### **Tribal Data**

**Currently, tribal cases make up nearly 20% of our active cases.** Elko County has separated 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. 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. This facility is under the authority of the State. The State has not provided any data or feedback regarding their response to the outbreak.

### **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 has tested positive; 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:**

The Board of County Commissioners approved enforcement of protective measures in the Re-opening and Response Plan on August 5, 2020. The County is partnering with 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 and have shown a spirit of cooperation in effort to re-open the County.

*The County stands ready to provide enforcement in the unincorporated areas if contact tracing identifies a particular area or business of concern. To date, we have not identified a business or area of concern which has required formal enforcement action from the County.*

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.

Elko County does not have a business license program for businesses in the unincorporated areas of the county.

#### **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-six (26) NOV's have been issued to various businesses or events within the City of Elko. Any business failing to comply after receiving a NOV is subject to business license revocation.

The City of Elko was made aware of a memorial softball tournament scheduled for last weekend. The organizers were notified that they could not host the softball tournament, but could continue to have the planned memorial services. Despite being advised and agreeing not to hold the tournament, the organizers continued anyway. Subsequently, Elko Police Department issued a notice of violation.

To date, there have been no businesses in Elko which have been identified as a concern through contact tracing.

##### **City of Carlin**

The City of Carlin maintains good relationships with businesses in the city and believes that all

businesses are in compliance with current Directives. The city partners with State resources to assist with enforcement and compliance efforts.

To date, there have been no businesses in Carlin which have been identified as a concern through contact tracing.

### **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. The city follows the guidance that was approved by the Board of County Commissioners on August 5, 2020, which outlines the Enforcement and Compliance Program for the County.

To date, there have been no businesses in Wells which have been identified as a concern through contact tracing.

### **City of West Wendover**

Due to the casinos in West Wendover, the Nevada Gaming Control Board sets the standards for compliance within the community. West Wendover currently has three active cases, which is directly attributed to the engagement of Mayor Corona and city leadership with local businesses to ensure the appropriate Directives are being followed. In addition, the Elko County Health Officer is in contact with local health care providers to monitor from a public health perspective. West Wendover Police Department is assisting in educating business owners to ensure with compliance Directives.

### **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 bars, pubs, taverns, breweries, and wineries under the County's jurisdiction be permitted to operate under Directive 021, Sections 25 and 26 effective immediately, specifically in the following unincorporated areas:

- Jiggs
- Lamoille
- Midas
- Tuscarora
- Jarbidge
- Montello
- Mountain City

None of the areas listed above have had an active case in more than 60 days and all but one location has not had any cases since the start of the pandemic.

There cannot be any scientific reason and it makes absolutely no sense to keep bar tops closed while allowing diners to sit at two-foot diameter tables. Diners sitting at the bar, spaced six feet apart and facing the bar are much less likely to spread a virus than diners sitting at a two-top table facing each other. In addition, allowing bar tops to reopen will give restaurants more space to socially distance their customers.

Elko County would also like to request that **Spring Creek** bars, pubs, taverns, breweries, and wineries under the County's jurisdiction be permitted to operate under Directive 021, Sections 25 and 26 effective immediately.

- 176 Confirmed cases, 161 Recovered Cases
  - Population – Approximately 13,000 residents
  - 15 Active Cases

Elko County would also like to request that **Jackpot** bars, pubs, taverns, breweries, and wineries under the County's jurisdiction be permitted to operate under Directive 021, Sections 25 and 26 effective immediately.

- 2 Confirmed Cases, 1 Recovery
  - Population – 978 residents
  - 1 Active Case (anticipated recovery by end of week)

### **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

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.

- 460 Confirmed Cases, 439 Recovered
  - Population – 21,199 residents
  - 20 Active Cases

### **City of Carlin**

The City of 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.

- 13 Confirmed Cases, 12 Recovered
  - Population – 2,663 residents
  - 1 Active Case

### **Wells**

The City of Wells 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.

- 12 Confirmed Cases, 12 Recovered Cases
  - Population – 1,366 residents
  - 0 Active Cases

### **West Wendover**

The City of 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.

- 159 Confirmed Cases, 154 Recovered Cases
  - Population – 4,469 residents
  - 3 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 eight residents' lives due to COVID-19 in our County. Five of the eight fatalities are directly related to an outbreak in the skilled nursing facility. 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 active cases continues to decline and test positivity rate has significantly decreased from 17.9% two weeks ago to 6.2%, which is more than a 65% reduction. Hospital capacity (including staffing and PPE) has remained good and hospitalizations have remained low with most only lasting a few days. In addition, 58% of our total 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.

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, especially as we continue to monitor an increase in cases in Eureka County.

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. Based on the County Tracker, we have improved in all three metrics. The test positivity rate has dropped by more than 50% from last week and nearly 65% from two weeks ago.

<b>Date of Report</b>	<b>Average # of Tests per Day per 100,000</b>	<b>Case Rate per 100,000</b>	<b>Test Positivity</b>
<b>8/6/2020</b>	134.3	478.3	15.0%
<b>8/13/2020</b>	125.1	417.0	15.1%
<b>8/19/2020</b>	126.9	445.6	14.8%
<b>8/26/2020</b>	119.8	443.8	16.8%
<b>8/31/2020</b>	105.2	392.8	17.9%
<b>9/7/2020</b>	85.5	361.9	12.6%
<b>9/14/2020</b>	111.6	232.8	6.2%

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.

## **MITIGATION PLAN**

The County views mitigation as an important part of managing continued COVID-19 outbreaks as well as community spread. At the absolute minimum, our County will enforce the baseline mitigation directed by the Governor through his various directives and associated guidelines, as detailed further in the next section. Additionally, should our contact tracing and case investigation efforts highlight further areas where we believe additional county and local mitigation efforts may help to minimize the spread of the virus, we are committed to doing so.

As described in the jurisdictional assessment attached here, our contact tracing and case investigation efforts show that the main sources of spread for the COVID-19 virus include workplace exposures, familiar exposures, and private gatherings. We believe that many of the existing statewide restrictions and requirements such as face coverings, capacity limits, and social distancing requirements are all essential to our success as a region and as a State, but we would also recommend and request approval to implement some modifications within our county in order to address the specific sources of infection that we are finding. These are outlined below:

### **Retails and Service outlets:**

These locations are essential to our economy as well as with maintaining quality of life and they continually have not appeared as a significant source of infection in our contact tracing efforts. The statewide directives provide an essential baseline for our mitigation efforts by ensuring public and private entities observe face covering and capacity requirements, and it is our belief that further restrictions are not required to address this potential source of spread. Instead, we propose the following:

### **Public/Private Partnership:**

In early May, Elko County submitted an Evaluation of Readiness for Phase I Reopening. Prior to that a "Recovery Team" was assembled under the leadership of Commissioner Andreozzi with the assistance of Annette Kerr, acting Emergency Manager, to partner with each of the cities and in effort to ensure a safe reopening. During that time, the Chamber of Commerce was engaged to assist businesses in preparing to open in compliance with Emergency Directives. Businesses were provided a sign to hang in their window which indicated they were in compliance with Phase I Reopening guidance. It gave confidence to local consumers as well as local leaders that organizations were and continue to be committed to doing to the right things and following appropriate protocols to ensure our communities stay safe and healthy while supporting the opening of our local businesses, including bars.

### **Reporting requirements:**

In partnership with NV DPBH, Great Basin College is currently the sole source of disease investigation and contact tracing for Elko County. While the State is the local health authority for Elko County, we believe it is important to be engaged and share accountability at local level to ensure timely mitigation and to prevent the spread of the virus within our communities. We understand larger counties may encourage organizations or businesses to self-report

positive cases within their organization to the Health Officer or other designated person. The reality for Elko County is that even though we have a large county, we still have small town relationships. We have the advantage of having a local contact tracing team, many of which have been in the community for a long time. More often than not, the contact tracing team knows or identifies an issue before the organization is aware and is proactively addressing the problem with them as the case investigation is occurring.

**Enforcement:**

Elko Counties Enforcement Plan is listed in the August 5,2020 Re-opening Response plan that was adopted by the State of Nevada. Examples of the enforcement plan is listed below.

**1. First Violation:** Constitutes a verbal discussion with the business owners outlining and reviewing the requirement for COVID-19 protective measures. A "Notice of Violation" will be provided to the business and subsequently identified as a first violation. This violation identifies that failure to correct the violation may subject the business to criminal prosecution and/or civil penalties under NRS 199.280, NRS 202.450 and other applicable statutes ordinances and/or regulations. (Sample of the Notice of Violation can be found at the conclusion of this plan.)

*It is hereby ordered that:*

*The Declaration of Emergency, Directive 024, Section 9: "Any individual who does not comply with Section 5 of this Directive, after receiving notice from law enforcement, may be subject to criminal prosecution and civil penalties under NRS 199.280, and any other applicable statute, regulation, or ordinance. All law enforcement agencies in the State of Nevada are authorized to enforce this Directive. The Office of the Attorney General is given concurrent jurisdiction to prosecute violations of this Directive."*

**2. Second Violation:** Enforcement is shared between Nevada Department of Business and Industry's Division of Industrial Relations (DIR) Occupational Safety and Health Administration (OSHA), local authorities and licensing jurisdictions and industries. Should there be additional contact due to non-compliance the business is subject to forfeiture of their business license until the business can prove willingness to comply with the directive. Business license reinstatement is subject to the licensing board's approval.

*It is hereby ordered that:*

*The Declaration of Emergency, Directive 024, Section 10: "Pursuant to NRS 414.060(3)(f), I, (the Governor), hereby authorize all local, city, and county governments, and state agencies to enforce this Directive and regulations promulgated thereunder, including but not limited to, suspending licenses, revoking licenses, or issuing penalties for violating business, professional, liquor, tobacco, or gaming licenses issued by the local jurisdiction for actions that jeopardize the health, safety, or welfare of the public; conduct which may injuriously affect the public health, safety, or welfare; conduct that may be detrimental to the public peace, health, or morals; or any other applicable ordinance or requirement for such a license."*

*The Declaration of Emergency, Directive 024, Section 8: "NV OSHA shall enforce all violations of its guidelines, protocols, and regulations promulgated pursuant to this Directive. State licensing*

*boards are hereby directed to enforce all provisions of this Directive against licensees and establishments within their purview and impose disciplinary measures against licensees who violate this Directive.”*

Starting in July, enforcement efforts increased exponentially. For Businesses, OSHA will be starting a new campaign focused on immediate identification of infractions of the Governor’s Directives and Industry Guidelines and individual closure of businesses as those infractions occur.

DIR will be doing the following:

a. Two call-in lines are available for the public to report businesses not following COVID-19 directives to OSHA: (702) 486-9020 and (775) 688-3700. These call-in lines will be promoted so Nevadans are easily able to help ensure enforcement in their communities.

1. DIR will redirect current staff to the call-in line to ensure a person is able to take complaints and understand the concerns of the complainant.

2. DIR will direct staff to onsite inspections of the complaints, as needed, based on the scope and severity of the complaint.

b. DIR will increase available staffing to ensure that regular and unannounced surveillance of businesses in communities with high rates of COVID-19 cases occur.

c. Department of Business and Industry will be working with business and chambers to direct prevention messages and offer free face coverings. 11

d. DIR will develop public service announcements directed at businesses that may be most impacted by COVID-19.

**3. Third Violation:** Identifies that the business has failed to correct the violation and is subject to criminal prosecution and/or civil penalties under NRS 199.280, NRS 202.450 and other applicable statutes ordinances and/or regulations.

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**Elko County wants to make it clear that individual businesses will not be held liable for the actions of their customers.**

**Recreation and Dining:** These locations and establishments are essential to our economy, and also to addressing the mental health needs of our community. In a prolonged pandemic, our constituents need ways of getting outside, of getting together with friends, and other forms of social interaction, all in responsible ways. As with retail and service outlets outlined above,

keeping these locations and venues open to our residents and visitors is essential, and we propose the same mitigation measures listed above.

**Gatherings:** As with many other communities in our state, our county has found that private gatherings serve as a source of community spread of COVID-19. Our contact tracing and case investigation efforts show that these gatherings span the spectrum from family events like birthdays, funerals, and holidays, to large-scale gatherings.

The mitigation measures outlined below are intended to ensure that our community is properly educated in the risks these gatherings provide as well as ensure that gatherings occur in areas that are more easily regulated than sporadic, private events. In this way, the mitigation measures remain largely the same, however some caveats apply.

**Public Education:** The county has provided state-approved fliers and educational material to events within the county and all events are required to follow mitigation measures provided.

**Reopening Bars and Taverns:** Our county is one of four in the state that remains on the elevated risk level list, and therefore bars, taverns, wineries, and breweries have remained closed. It is our belief that these locations provide a better outlet for gatherings than private gatherings in homes, and therefore reopening bars serves as a mitigation measure. Elko County believes the mitigation measures set forth in Directive 021, Sections 25 and 26 are sufficient to prevent to spread of COVID-19 in the community.

- Restaurants that serve alcohol are currently able to operate as “quasi-bars” allowing patrons to simply order alcohol within the establishment. If this is permissible, there is little justification for not allowing bars, pubs, taverns, breweries, distilleries and wineries to re-open.
- Through partnership with the cities and other support organizations, Elko County will ensure establishment owners are aware of the Phase II – Industry and Activity Specific Guidance pertaining to their respective establishments, which include, but is not limited to:
  - 50% capacity limitation
  - 6-foot social distancing
  - Requiring symptomatic employees to stay home
  - Provide PPE for staff
  - Frequent hand washing and sanitizing
  - Daily deep cleaning and disinfecting of high contact surfaces
  - Encourage managers to use this [checklist](#).
- Share resources from the CDC which provide for best practices – found [here](#).

**Reporting Requirements:** Remain the same.

## **Enforcement Plan**

As noted previously, the County views enforcement as at least as important as the mitigation measures themselves. Effective local enforcement will require collaboration between all jurisdictions and use of all appropriate local resources in order to minimize the spread of the virus. Our enforcement structure and operational model is provided below herein.

See Above Example as well as 8/5/2020 Approved and adopted re-opening plan.



## **CITY OF WEST WENDOVER**

P.O. Box 2825 • 1111 N. Gene L. Jones Way • West Wendover, NV 89883  
Office (775) 664-3081 Fax (775) 664-3720

### **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.

**ELKO COUNTY, NV  
RE-OPENING  
RESPONSE PLAN**



**AUGUST 2020**

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- II. Background
- III. Identification of Protective Measures
- IV. Outline of Enforcement of Protective Measures
- V. Community Outreach
- VI. Public Health Response
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- VIII. Sample: Notice of Violation

## REOPENING RESPONSE PLAN

**August 5, 2020**

# **Elko County Office of Emergency Management**

### **APPROVAL AND IMPLEMENTATION**

Pursuant to Elko County, Nevada: County Code; Title 1: Miscellaneous Regulations; Chapter 3: Emergency Operations; Section 11-3-5 (F) Powers and Duties of Director: “to prepare an emergency operations plan and an emergency resources management plan for the County in, support of and in consonance with Federal and State emergency plans and guidance.”

Pursuant to State of Nevada, Executive Department, Governor Sisolak, Declaration of Emergency, Directive 021, Phase Two Reopening Plan; Directive 023, Directive 024, Guidance issued by the Nevada Local Empowerment Advisory Panel (LEAP), and the Department of Business and Industry, Division of Industrial Relations for the Occupational Safety and Health Administration (OSHA); Elko County has established the Reopening Response Plan consistent with the *Nevada United: Roadmap to Recovery Plan*.

The Elko County COVID-19 Reopening Response Plan, (RRP), is an addendum plan to the Emergency Operations Plan (EOP). As such, the RRP aligns with the strategy and concepts of Operation for the State of Nevada COVID-19 Outbreak Management Plan and the State of Nevada Health Response Plan, i.e. COVID-19 Re-Opening Response Plan.

Board of Commission Adoption: Final

- The Elko County Board of Commissioner’s recognized, accepted and adopted the plan on August 5, 2020.

## I. PURPOSE

The purpose of the Elko County COVID-19 Reopening Response Plan (RRP) is to develop a document which incorporates the guidance of the State of Nevada, Executive Department, Declaration of Emergency Directives 021, 023 and 024 by Governor Sisolak, along with the Guidance of the Nevada Local Empowerment Advisory Panel (LEAP) and in conjunction with the Occupational Safety and Health Administration (OSHA) and in consideration of the Nevada Division of Health and Human Services support for safely restarting Elko County's economy.

The strategy and sustainment capability to prevent the spread of COVID-19 is encapsulated within this plan and outlined specifically within the COVID-19 Disease Outbreak Management Plan while addressing the phases of reopening

It is the intent of this plan to align with the State of Nevada's ***Nevada United: Roadmap to Recovery Plan: Phase Two***.

Community-based testing, testing through the private sector, and disease outbreak management will be essential to reopen Elko County's economy. Preparing and maintaining a surge capacity is key to ensuring the healthcare infrastructure is not overwhelmed in case of future COVID-19 spikes or sustained future waves.

Additionally, the monitoring of compliance is critical to maintaining the suggested and directed guidelines for reducing the risk of continual spreading of the COVID-19 virus.

In alignment with the State of Nevada Strategies, Elko County has also established this course of action items:

- Identify protective measures which align with the guidance provided by federal, state, and local authorities.
- Outline enforcement of protective measures.
- Create an Outreach Program, informing the public of the protective measures.
- Assist with Public Health Response.
- Case Investigation Workforce.

## II. BACKGROUND

### BACKGROUND

Elko County is dedicated to reducing the possible consequences of an emergency by preventing serious illness and the loss of life. Also accelerating the resumption of normal daily life activities, protect the environment and be resilient.

The process includes developing operations and surge strategies, including sustainment capabilities to prevent the spread of COVID-19 and mitigate any outbreaks, while working to reopen our economy. This process is in alignment with the State of Nevada's Roadmap to Recovery.



As the State of Nevada and the Nation moved to contain this virus, Elko County created a Unified Command Team to not only work on local issues, but to reach out to five other counties and offer assistance for those residing in Northeast Nevada. The creation of our “Hot Line” was one of the first in the State to enable citizens to call in with questions, concerns and receive health care direction. Elko County partnered with the University of Nevada Reno Extension Division, known as the Nevada Health Centers. This partnership was one of the first of its kind allowing UNR medical students to assist in diagnosing COVID-19 systems and offering testing and direction. The Hot Line was established on March 26, 2020. (See Attached Elko County Dash Board for Hot Line statistics.) The community-based testing clinic is operating at full capacity.

Elko County does not have its own Health District, the county relies on assistance from the Nevada Department of Health and Human Services’ Division of Public and Behavioral Health (DPBH) and Nevada State Public Health Laboratory (NSPHL). A County Health Board, along with the assistance of a County Health Officer, oversee health concerns and report back to the State. The Health Board is also responsible for ensuring compliance with directives and working with law enforcement to ensure compliance with said directives.

The Unified Command Team consists of the County Health Officer, along with the Elko County Emergency Manager which oversees and conducts the Emergency Operation Center. A regional warehouse was established to help address PPE needs for the Northeast Region, and the Community-Based Health Facility (Nevada Health Centers) consults with other counties to help them identify cases.

The team consists of Logistics, Operations, Planning, Medical, Financial, Public Information Officer, Documentation, Volunteers, including food distribution and physical and mental health care providers.

The Command Staff and various community stakeholders meet weekly with local cities, the hospital, health care providers and the communities, including incorporated cities and unincorporated towns, to make sure the current needs are met and to collaborate on future issues.

In May, assisted by the Nevada National Guard, Elko County offered a drive-through community-based testing site. The goal was to have 3000 people tested, 1300 individuals took advantage of the opportunity. Only one (1) positive case was identified out of the 1300 tests performed.

Since the beginning of the Phase Two reopening in June 2020; Elko County has observed increases to the number of daily new COVID-19 cases.

Case Data as of August 5, 2020

LOCATION	CONFIRMED CASES	ACTIVE CASES	RECOVERED CASES	% OF TOTAL CASES
CARLIN	11	1	10	2.15%
ELKO	278	43	234	54.40%
JACKPOT	1	0	1	0.20%
SPRING CREEK	77	8	69	15.07%
UNDER INVESTIGATION	4	2	2	0.78%
WELLS	8	3	5	1.57%
WEST WENDOVER	132	22	109	25.83%

July 2020 positive confirmed COVID-19 cases were 46% female and 54% male.

As stated in the Nevada Health Response Re-Opening Plan, “An important aspect of COVID-19 is there is an inherent delay from the point of exposure to symptoms starting, specimen collection, laboratory testing to reporting to public health. By the time the public health authority learns of the case, one to two weeks or more may have elapsed since the initial exposure occurred. In this period, the case may have infected others. Additionally, the other contacts, if they contracted COVID, could have further spread the infection. The role of case investigation and contact tracing is imperative, but ultimately the effort needs to be directed at preventing spread through implementation of community-wide protective measures. Once implemented, these protective measures may not show immediately in the reported data due to the delays in report.”

### III. IDENTIFICATION OF PROTECTIVE MEASURES

There are three main risk reduction activities and protective measures that have been reported to reduce the spread of COVID-19.

1. **Social Distancing.** To ensure that Nevadans, including citizens of Elko County, remained socially distanced through reopening, Governor Sisolak implemented guidelines related to ensure distancing as follows:

- a. Always maintain at least **SIX FEET OF SOCIAL DISTANCING** per person for non-household members.
- b. **PUBLIC AND PRIVATE GATHERINGS** are limited to a number that can ensure social distancing at any given time.
- c. Elko County will follow the guidelines provided by the State of Nevada for industry-specific businesses to ensure businesses are following these guidelines.

**Additionally, industry-specific guidelines will be provided to ensure that as businesses reopen, social distancing through spacing between patrons and reduced occupancy requirements are implemented.**

*It is hereby ordered that:*

*The Declaration of Emergency, Directive 023, Section 2: “The phrase “social distancing” references guidance promulgated by the United States Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, including without limitation, maintaining at least six feet of physical distancing from other individuals. The phrase “sanitation requirements,” “sanitation measures,” and “sanitation guidelines” includes without limitation, washing hands with soap and water for at least twenty seconds as frequently as possible, using hand sanitizer, covering coughs or sneezes (into the sleeve or elbow, not hands), regularly cleaning high-touch surfaces, and not shaking hands.)”*

2. **Face Covering Requirements.** Phase 2 required the use of face covering for employees of each business reopening. On June 24, 2020, Governor Sisolak mandated face coverings in all settings, with a few exceptions.

Infection disease scientists and experts advise that “universal masking at 80% adoption [] flattens the curve significantly more than maintaining a strict lock-down,” and “masking at only 50% adoption [] is not sufficient to prevent continued spread” of COVID-19. (Declaration of Emergency, Directive 024)

*It is hereby ordered that:*

*The Declaration of Emergency, Directive 024, Section 5: “Individuals not exempted by this Directive or guidance issued by the Nevada Health Response shall be required to cover their nose and mouth with a*

mask or face covering when in a public space, whether publicly owned or privately owned where the public has access by right or invitation, express or implied, whether by payment of money or not.”

*The Declaration of Emergency, Directive 024, Section 6: “Businesses operating during Phase Two of the Nevada United: Roadmap to recovery plan shall ensure that all patrons, customers, patients, or clients utilize face coverings, subject to the guidelines that shall be promulgated pursuant to this Directive including prohibiting persons without face coverings from entering the premises.”*

*The Declaration of Emergency, Directive 024, Section 4: “For the purposes of this Directive, “face covering” is defined as covering that fully covers a person’s nose and mouth, including without limitation, cloth face masks, surgical masks, towels, scarves, and bandanas. This Directive shall not be construed to require the public to wear medical-grade masks, including masks rated N95, KN95, and their equivalent or better.”*

**The impact of this directive will take a few weeks to realize, as there is often a two-week delay between exposure to presentation of symptoms, specimen collection, laboratory reporting and public health data analysis.**

3. **Hand Hygiene.** Elko County will continue to promote hand hygiene through public service announcements and press releases.

*It is hereby ordered that:*

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**The impact of this directive will take a few weeks to realize, as there is often a two-week delay between exposure to presentation of symptoms, specimen collection, laboratory reporting and public health data analysis.**

#### IV. OUTLINE OF ENFORCEMENT OF PROTECTIVE MEASURES

*It is hereby ordered that:*

*The Declaration of Emergency, Directive 024, Section 2: “Consistent with the Nevada United: Roadmap to Recovery plan for a federally supported, state managed, and locally executed reopening approach, county governments and local municipalities are hereby delegated the authority to impose additional COVID-19 related restrictions on businesses and public activities. Restrictions imposed by county government or local municipalities may exceed the standards imposed by Declaration of Emergency Directives or set forth under the LEAP guidelines, but in no case shall county guidelines be more permissive than the provisions of this Directive.”*

*The Declaration of Emergency, Directive 024, Section 3: “Businesses may adopt practices that exceed the standards imposed by Declaration of Emergency Directives, guidelines promulgated by the Nevada State Occupational Safety and Health Administration (NV OSHA) or LEAP guidelines, but in no case shall business practices be more permissive than the provisions of this Directive or those imposed by NV OSHA and the LEAP.”*

In alignment with the State of Nevada, Elko County’s Enforcement Policy is as follows:

Enforcement of the protective measures is shared between local authorities and the corresponding licensing jurisdictions. Elko County is collaborating with all law enforcement agencies, municipalities, and licensing divisions regarding the listed steps for violations of the Directives and protective measures. Elko County will be implementing a targeted and aggressive strategy to curtail and manage the outbreak while implementing increased enforcement of protective measures and outreach with greater public health response.

1. **First Violation:** Constitutes a verbal discussion with the business owners outlining and reviewing the requirement for COVID-19 protective measures. A “Notice of Violation” will be provided to the business and subsequently identified as a first violation. This violation identifies that failure to correct the violation may subject the business to criminal prosecution and/or civil penalties under NRS 199.280, NRS 202.450 and other applicable statutes ordinances and/or regulations. (Sample of the Notice of Violation can be found at the conclusion of this plan.)

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DIR will be doing the following:

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- c. Department of Business and Industry will be working with business and chambers to direct prevention messages and offer free face coverings.

- d. DIR will develop public service announcements directed at businesses that may be most impacted by COVID-19.

3. **Third Violation:** Identifies that the business has failed to correct the violation and is subject to criminal prosecution and/or civil penalties under NRS 199.280, NRS 202.450 and other applicable statutes ordinances and/or regulations.

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**Elko County wants to make it clear that individual businesses will not be held liable for the actions of their customers.**

## V. COMMUNITY OUTREACH

Elko County does not have its own Health District, the County relies on assistance from the Nevada Department of Health and Human Services' Division of Public and Behavioral Health (DPBH) and Nevada State Public Health Laboratory (NSPHL). Thus, any programs that State or public health is providing, Elko County is willing to consider participating and bring these programs to Northeastern Nevada.

It is Elko County's understanding that the State of Nevada will be developing a COVID-19 Prevention Ambassador Program. This program will utilize volunteers and paid staff in communities most highly affected by COVID-19. The State of Nevada will work with state and local workforce programs, as well as, other outreach services and models. The Ambassador Program is a street-outreach program developed to identify settings where the directives may not be met related to social distancing and face coverings in public settings. The Ambassadors will be trained to educate and encourage individuals to exercise protective measures by providing risk reduction kits that include information on COVID-19, free face coverings, free hand sanitizer, and referrals for testing or social services as needed.

Media, both traditional and social, are an integral part of outreach and education for our various communities. The Department of Health and Human Services' Division of Public and Behavioral Health (DPBH) is partnering with the Nevada Broadcaster's Association (NBA) to create public service announcements around face coverings and social distancing. The campaign will focus on normalizing these behaviors among target populations. NBA partners with statewide media outlets, including major media stations and targeted media, such as Telemundo.

**Elko County is considered part of the Utah district for broadcasting. It is our hope that the State and the NBA will consider expanding the media campaign to reach the Northeast and Eastern part of the state with their messaging.**

## VI. PUBLIC HEALTH

The public health response for COVID-19 involves increased and sustained testing, identification of new cases, contacts to those cases, and analysis of the spread of infection by geographic and demographic factors. This data analysis supports targeted education and outreach for prevention and testing, and evaluation of those efforts. This data is also used to direct future reopening directives.

The State of Nevada developed three overarching goals for public health to serve as statewide benchmarks during the COVID-19 response. These goals dictate the staffing needed for each area of the state.

- At least 2% of Nevada's population will be tested for COVID-19 each month.
- Every Nevadan who tests positive for COVID-19 will be contacted by a contact tracer within 24 hours of that confirmatory lab report being received by the health authority.

- Within 24 hours of identifying a close contact of a case, those individuals will be communicated with by a contact tracer.

As COVID-19 appears to affect each county in a unique way at different times, the DPBH is developing a system to allow staff trained in one county for case investigation to remotely support another county, should they have an immediate surge in cases. This flexibility in staffing is only realized through the current efforts of standardized training, processes, forms, and data collection systems.

Elko County currently utilizes the services of staff and students at Great Basin College for contact tracing. These individuals have received the standardized training and have assisted in tracing numerous individuals that have been in contact with positive cases. This has allowed Elko County to encourage self-isolation and/or quarantining, including increased testing of possible group contacts.

In order to ensure that each case and contact identified can self-isolate or quarantine effectively, they are connected with either the Nevada Health Centers or to Nevada 211, Nevada's Division of Welfare and Supportive Services, and local social services to ensure wraparound services are provided. Those needs identified may range from health services for those who are uninsured or may need Medicaid, housing services, food services, or other such services.

## **VII. CASE INVESTIGATION WORK FORCE**

Case investigation is a fundamental aspect of COVID-19 response. Case investigation is centered around the immediate self-isolation of the case, discussion of close contacts, and completion of the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) form. In addition to the CDC form, Nevada, along with Elko County, has also added additional questions to each case interview related to occupation and details on mass gathering or social events.

Case investigation workforce for COVID-19 varies to meet the specific need of each jurisdiction. In Elko County, this workforce comprises state health department staff, paid contractors, Nevada System of Higher Education faculty, staff, and students, i.e. Great Basin College, Nevada Health Centers, and Elko County employees and volunteers. This workforce can increase or decrease as needed to meet the needs of the community. The immediate need for additional case investigation staff in Elko County is needed. Elko County is working on securing additional resources for not only case investigation but community-based testing.

The State of Nevada has contracted with Deloitte to provide staff and support for contact tracing 12-hours per day, 7-days per week. Should Elko County continue to see an increase in cases, Elko County will reach out to the State of Nevada, Division of Emergency Management and DPBH for assistant.

**VIII. NOTICE OF VIOLATION**

SAMPLE: NOTICE OF VIOLATION



\_\_\_\_\_  
*Name and Address of  
Law Enforcement Agency*  
\_\_\_\_\_

TO: \_\_\_\_\_  
(Name of Business)

SUBJECT: NOTICE OF VIOLATION OF GOVERNOR’S DIRECTIVE(S); DECLARATION OF EMERGENCY; COVID-19 PANDEMIC

PURSUANT TO DIRECTIVES 03, 021, 023 AND/OR 024, SIGNED BY THE GOVERNOR OF THE STATE OF NEVADA, YOU ARE HEREBY NOTIFIED THAT THE ABOVE BUSINESS IS IN VIOLATION OF THE DIRECTIVE(S) AND/OR THE EMERGENCY REGULATION OF THE NEVADA DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC SAFETY, DIVISION OF EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT (NAC 414), AS FOLLOWS:

LOCATION OF VIOLATION: \_\_\_\_\_

DATE/TIME OF VIOLATION: \_\_\_\_\_

DESCRIPTION OF VIOLATION (ADD ADDITIONAL PAGES IF NECESSARY)

\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

YOU ARE FURTHER NOTIFIED THAT FAILURE TO CORRECT THESE VIOLATION(S) MAY SUBJECT THE ABOVE BUSINESS TO CRIMINAL PROSECUTION AND/OR CIVIL PENALTIES UNDER NRS 199.280, NRS 202.450 AND OTHER APPLICABLE STATUTES ORDINANCES AND/OR REGULATIONS.

By: \_\_\_\_\_  
Law Enforcement Agency Name

Date: \_\_\_\_\_