



WASHOE COUNTY ASSESSMENT – October 7, 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 have seen significant increases in cases occurring in the 10-19 year old, and 20-29 year old ranges as school and the University have reopened. These may be attributable to gatherings that are occurring outside of the institutional settings.

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.

Washoe County test positivity rate has increased during the past week from 7.8% to 8.4%. The number of tests per 100,000 population has increased from 207.7 per day to 232.9 per day during the same period. Plenty of testing capacity remains available at the POST. The new cases per 100,000 population have increased from 397.2 to 412.2. We remain concerned regarding cases coming from UNR students and gatherings. During the week of September 27-October 3, 21% of new cases, or 119 cases occurred in 18-24 year old individuals. However, as noted, transmission remains widespread in the community. On October 6, the 7-day rolling average of new cases was 80.1 a reduction 26.1 cases per day over the course of a week, and a 24.6% reduction in the daily new case count.


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.

2. Hospital Capacity

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

As of October 5, the relative burden on northern Nevada hospitals as a result of COVID-19 is 4% (hospitalized/ licensed bed count). Within the intensive care unit, the percentage of relative burden is 10% (COVID-19 hospitalized ICU/ licensed ICU beds). Staffed ICU beds in Washoe County hospital occupancy rates are 62% and 50% 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 17% of capacity; 4% of those ventilators are required by COVID patients.

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

 Nevada Hospital Association			On hand supply of Ventilator Supplies	N95 mask	Other respirators such as PAPRs	surgical and procedure masks	eye protection	single use gowns	gloves
Daily Hospital Stats 6 October 2020			PPE STATUS LEVELS						
Northern Nevada Medical Center	1	Washoe	>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	>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			
	#	Location	
Coveralls - Medical	86	RFD	
Disinfectant - Hand Sanitizer - 12oz	166	RFD	
Disinfectant - Hand Sanitizer - 16oz	27	RFD	
Disinfectant - Hand Sanitizer - 128oz	4	RFD	
Faceshields	566	RFD	
Gloves - Medical - XL	0	RFD	
Gloves - Medical - L	1,500	RFD	
Gloves - Medical - M	600	RFD	
Gloves - Medical - S	0	RFD	
Gloves - Food Grade - S	4,400	EOC & RFD	3,000 RFD, 1,600 EOC
Gloves - Food Grade - M	19,200	EOC & RFD	0 RFD, 21,300 EOC
Gloves - Food Grade - L	13,500	EOC & RFD	5,000 RFD, 9,500 EOC
Gloves - Food Grade - XL	12,100	EOC & RFD	6,600 RFD, 5,700 EOC
Gowns - Cloth - GC	909	EOC & RFD	150 RFD, 759 EOC (50 polyester/50c
Gowns - Medical	0	RFD	
Gowns - Non-Medical	100	RFD	(Disposable; ties at nec k and waist)
Gowns - Plastic - LL	112	EOC & RFD	13, RFD, 99 EOC
Masks - Level 1/Surgical	1,500	RFD	
Masks - N95 Aura 3M 9211+	2,140	RFD	
Masks - KN95 3M 9541V	207	RFD	
Masks - KN95 3M 9501+	50	RFD	
Masks - Delta PFF2 Small	10,267	EOC & RFD	7 RFD, 11540 EOC
Masks - KN95 Washoe	36,750	Dave Solaro	
Masks - Swedish Dish Cloth	1,999	EOC	
Masks - Cotton - Haynes	2,865	EOC	
Pads - Alcohol Prep	160	RFD	

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:

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	500,970
Exam Gowns	EA		Varies	4,422
Face Shields	EA		Varies	5,203
Surgical Masks	EA		Varies	17,150
Tychem Suits	EA		Varies	754
PAPR Head Coverings and Hoses - assorted	EA		Varies	275
N95 Masks	EA		Varies	41,675
Ordered				
PAPR Head Coverings and Hoses - assorted	EA			2

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 Call Center staffing is at 22 (including 6 Guard). Four additional staff joined on 10/5. The staff conducts the scheduling, provide the lab paperwork and labeling for the testing and provide the follow-up reporting of lab results. The call center hours are 6:30 am to 7 pm.

Number of People tested in a day/week:

For the week ending on September 29, 7,544 test results were reported for Washoe County, or an average of 225.39 tests per day per 100,000 population.

The demand for testing from the public at the POST has declined over the past several weeks but seems to be increasing since the Governor announced the requirements for youth and adult sports. There seems to be plenty of additional testing available through the healthcare system in the County. The POST is scheduled to operate weekdays except Wednesday's moving forward unless demand picks up to warrant testing five days per week, or if holidays alter the schedule.

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 has facilitated establishment of client accounts for skilled nursing facilities, and other senior living facilities, as well as first responders to utilize the Nevada State Public Health Lab test kit distribution system to receive test kits directly. WCHD does not anticipate providing test collection kit distribution in the future. Tests are conducted under the direction of their medical directors and submitted directly to the NSPHL for testing. NSPHL reported on 9/15 that they had an ample supply of test collection kits available.

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.

On September 16, 2020, Washoe County Health District assisted the State and conducted COVID-19 testing at Reno Valley Assisted Living and Retirement Center for 41 residents. Testing was conducted in preparation of residents being moved to alternate facilities as a result of the

closure of Reno Valley. Additional testing of 14 individuals at the facility is anticipated later this week.

The Health District is planning to conduct testing of the homeless population housed at the CAC on Record Street on October 9, due to several cases of COVID 19 occurring in that population over the past week.

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 increase throughput and reduce 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 but the timeline has been delayed as the automation equipment is backordered.

4. Case Investigation and Contract Tracing

Current Contract Tracing Workforce:

We currently have 52 disease investigators on staff, with approximately 25 working on any given day through a seven-day week. Forty-one staff is employed through the UNR Nevada Public Health Training Center. We are currently working with UNR to add 10 additional disease investigation staff to reduce the backlog in case investigations currently experienced. There are 10 National Guard members and one WCHD staff member that are also serving as disease investigation staff. They are supported by five staff epidemiologists and 1.5 FTE devoted to data entry.

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 improving 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 29, 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. The percentage of disease investigations completed in the past week remain at reduced levels due to the backlog of cases requiring investigation that resulted from the spike that occurred over the previous two week reporting periods. Delays also occur due to the complexity and time taken in working with schools on positive cases and exclusions. 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
9/30/20	55	24	31	44%
10/1/20	115	52	63	45%
10/2/20	65	41	24	63%
10/3/20	59	28	31	47%
10/4/20	33	7	26	21%
10/5/20	122	45	77	37%
10/6/20	113	5	108	4%
Total	562	202	360	36%

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. 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 two positive case was identified during the past week include workplaces in the following sectors: education, healthcare, manufacturing, warehouse/distribution, and leisure/hospitality. During this reporting week the only organizations that had more than four positive COVID-19 cases identified were K-12 students and School District staff (48) and Northern Nevada Allergy Associates (8) and the University of Nevada, Reno (7). Vulnerable populations in skilled nursing and memory care facilities and their staff have also been found to be sources of outbreaks.

Many of the UNR student cases result from students attending off-campus parties at which social distancing and mask wearing does not occur. Several bars near the UNR campus were noticed of violating the bar operating standards by the City of Reno and are reported to have improved compliance on re-inspection. The District Health Officer and County Manager met with UNR President Sandoval on October 7 to discuss the situation with UNR student cases and messaging and mitigation. President Sandoval is taking action to close the campus fitness facilities due to a significant number of students and staff the have visited the facility prior to becoming infected or while infectious. This messaging from President Sandoval to the University community has already begun with the theme “Protect the Pack.”

5. 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.
- One inmate has tested positive for COVID-19 while incarcerated within the Washoe County Detention Facility.

Additionally, 6 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

The 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 in Reno 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.

6. Enforcement

Key takeaways for the week:

- No fines were assessed.
- Bar and Tap Room Coalition continues to successfully self-police to meet standards.

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 = 41 October = 1 (City of Reno, City of Sparks and Unincorporated County)
Total Complaints March to October 5, 2020 = 1,700

RANDOM CHECKS

July = 29 (Unincorporated County only)

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

August = 246

September = 433

October = 184

Total Random Checks for July – October 5, 2020 = 863

Additional Enforcement Measures in place:

City of Reno:

Over the past week, the random inspections resulted in the following:

- 43 compliant businesses
- 12 non-compliant businesses
- 9 notices of violation issued
- 3 flagged for re inspection
 - The 3 re inspections and found all businesses to be closed.

City of Sparks:

Monday, 9/28/20:

- Sparks staff conducted 27 inspections.
- All 27 inspections were random.
- 1 inspection was performed on a bar.
 - 0 bars were found to be in violation of the Governor's directive.
- 0 of the 26 non-bar inspections were found to be in violation of the Governor's directive.

Tuesday, 9/29/20:

- Sparks staff conducted 28 inspections.
- All 28 inspections were random.
- 6 inspections were performed on bars.
 - 0 bars were found to be in violation of the Governor's directive.
- 1 of the 22 non-bar inspections were found to be in violation of the Governor's directive.

Wednesday, 9/30/20:

- Sparks staff conducted 13 inspections.
- All 13 inspections were random.
- 6 inspections were performed on bars.
 - 0 bars were found to be in violation of the Governor's directive.
- 0 of the 7 non-bar inspections were found to be in violation of the Governor's directive.

Thursday, 10/1/20:

- Sparks staff conducted 26 inspections.
- All 26 inspections were random.
- 6 inspections were performed on bars.
 - 0 bars were found to be in violation of the Governor's directive.
- 0 of the 20 non-bar inspections were found to be in violation of the Governor's directive.

Friday, 10/2/20:

- Sparks staff conducted 10 inspections.
- All 10 inspections were random.
- 3 inspections were performed on bars.
 - 0 bars were found to be in violation of the Governor's directive.
- 0 of the 7 non-bar inspections were found to be in violation of the Governor's directive.

Unincorporated Washoe County:

We continue to complete random business checks and specific checks of the bar/tavern business class in unincorporated Washoe County. Last week, there was (1) complaint received, no violations found, 22 random checks performed and (1) door poster provided to bring the business into compliance.

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. The audiences where the biggest impact can be made is the Hispanic population, the 20-40 age range that makes up the majority of cases, businesses and other vulnerable populations.

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. The Governor's Directive 033 has allowed gatherings of up to 250 people and larger approved events to occur. The Health District continues to recommend limiting gatherings to 25 people or less due to the high rates of transmission occurring in Washoe County and the White House recommendations for counties ranked as orange status. After much discussion the jurisdictions decided to proceed with implementing Governor's Directive 33.

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. Enforcement procedures for bars have been developed by each of the jurisdictions.

With the flu season approaching, the similarity of influenza and COVID-19 symptoms, and the potential impact to healthcare capacity attributable to both influenza and COVID-19 patients; the Health District has begun providing Points of Dispensing (PODs) for mass dispensing of the influenza vaccine, working with regional partners for closed and open PODs, and providing vaccinations in our clinic. Staff vaccinated a total of 1,094 people for flu during four flu POD events held in September including 285 children and 809 adults.

We continue to work to implement flu vaccination clinics for the upcoming months. Staff plan to conduct seven Flu PODs in October, three utilizing the POST location and four community flu events.