



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

ELKO COUNTY COVID-19 ASSESSMENT AND ACTION PLAN

Revised October 7, 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 September 9 and October 6, 2020, nearly 18,432 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 40% 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. **Since August 14, 2020, our test positivity rate decreased more than 70%, the case rate has decreased by more than 56%, and average tests per day has increased more than 59%.**

Date of Report	Average # of Tests per Day per 100,000	Case Rate per 100,000	Test Positivity
8/6/2020	134.3	478.3	15.0%
8/13/2020	125.1	417.0	15.1%
8/19/2020	126.9	445.6	14.8%
8/26/2020	119.8	443.8	16.8%
8/31/2020	105.2	392.8	17.9%
9/7/2020	85.5	361.9	12.6%
9/14/2020	111.6	232.8	6.2%
9/21/2020	153.7	158.2	4.4%
9/28/2020	160.4	178.2	4.0%
10/5/2020	199.1	181.9	4.4%

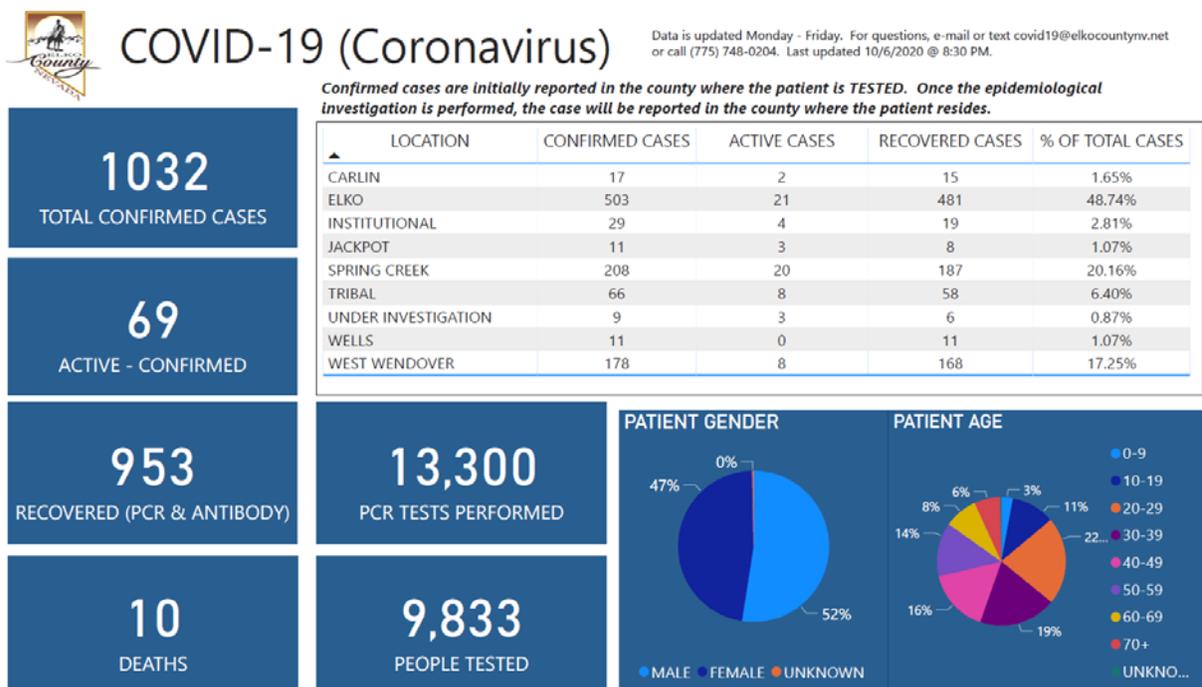
We have been actively engaged with local providers to maintain the increase in testing we appreciated over the last few weeks. Through the use of CARES Act funding, Medallus Urgent Care is offering free testing seven days a week. Through social media and other communications platforms, we are encouraging anyone who wants to test, to get tested.

In addition, we are collaborating with DEM and NVNG to host community-based testing events on October 2, 9, 16 and 23. We have engaged local partners to assist with these efforts as well. During our first event on October 2, 2020, we tested 58 individuals. As of today, have not received results for this event.

Result times from the Nevada State Public Health lab have been averaging 5 to 7 days in the last three weeks. The turnaround time has been a barrier to when it comes to supporting increased testing in our communities. We’d like to see the turnaround time in the 2 to 3 day range.

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 has developed a reporting template to capture this data which can be uploaded in the Electronic Lab Reporting (ELR) system. We are working closely with our local providers to get the information completed and returned to the State. This is a very labor-intensive process where resources are already limited and will take some time.

Between August 14 and October 6, Elko County is reporting a total of 401 new cases, 436 recovered cases, and 7 deaths. As of October 6, Elko County currently has 69 active cases.



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 good supply of Remdesivir. The current levels of medication are holding steady as of October 6, 2020.

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

As of October 6, 2020, based on the daily report from Nevada Hospital Association:

- 17% of Licensed Inpatient Beds are being utilized
 - No COVID-19 patients are currently hospitalized within our local facility
- ICU beds – 7 licensed beds, 3 occupied
- Ventilators – 6 machines , 0 in use
- 2 positive cases are currently hospitalized
 - 2 at the University of Utah

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.

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 eleven confirmed cases, with three currently active and West Wendover has had 178 confirmed cases to date, with 8 currently active. 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 was improving, it has leveled off and has increased the last two weeks. Sustained improvement in turnaround time 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.

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

While Elko County has met the requirement to complete an average of 150 tests per day per 100,000, we do not believe we can continue to meet this metric for a sustained period of time. This may be a more reasonable criteria if the vulnerable populations under State authority are being tested on a regular basis, like in the Department of Corrections facilities in White Pine and Pershing counties.

Based on the data provided by NV DPBH, Elko County has averaged 132 tests per day per 100,000 since the August 6, 2020 County Tracker report, which does not include the negative point of care PCR tests.

Turnaround time from the Nevada State Public Health Lab is currently averaging about five to seven days. We do not have results from the community based testing event held on October 2, 2020.

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.

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 are currently scheduled to test on October 2, 9, 16, and 23. We have communicated this to communities through various media outlets once we confirm the final details of these events.

We are working closely with the City of West Wendover to host a CBT event in the West Wendover community near the end of October.

In addition, we are collaborating with Renown's Lab Director and the Elko County School District to coordinate voluntary testing of all school district staff in effort to safely re-open the schools to a model of in-person learning.

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.

We are in the process of obtaining additional AbbottID NOW machines to place with local health care providers.

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.

In addition, we are collaborating with Renown's Lab Director and the Elko County School District to coordinate voluntary testing of all school district staff in effort to safely re-open the schools to a model of in-person learning.

Skilled Nursing Facility Outbreak

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

During mid-August, an outbreak was identified in the skilled nursing facility. A total of 55 individuals have tested positive, including 28 residents, 1 assisted living resident, and 26 staff, ***which equates to over 14 % of new cases since August 14, 2020.*** To date, there has been seven fatalities related to this outbreak, which accounts for 70% of the County's deaths. The last positive resident tested on October 1, 2020. One contracted staff tested positive (who had not previously tested positive) on October 6, 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. 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. It is not uncommon for results to be delayed, 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.

Contact 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.

Overview contact tracing findings suggesting high-risk areas.

Skilled Nursing Facility Outbreak

An outbreak was identified in the skilled nursing facility. A total of 55 individuals have tested positive, including 29 residents and 26 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.

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 several 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 continues to decrease. 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 6.4% 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.

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.

ACTION PLAN

Provide support to local businesses, organizations, and community partners to ensure the County continues to stay safe and open.

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. Again, 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, there has been one organization which has been identified as a concern and Dr. Putnam and team are working through the outbreak with the organization.

Emergency Directive Enforcement Status

Since mid-August, the City of Elko has seen increased requests for Special Events and organized sports activities. Most of these types of activities require permits and/or licenses from the City of Elko, giving City officials the opportunity to review/approve on a case-by case basis. In some instances, the City of Elko has requested the Local Empowerment Advisory Panel (LEAP) to review specific requests.

Assuming events have been approved by LEAP, the City of Elko has met with event organizers and food/beverage concessionaires to ensure compliance with Emergency Directives and LEAP Guidelines. We have found that meeting with event organizers and food/beverage providers in advance of the event increases overall compliance.

Notice-of-Violation – Star Hotel – August 17, 2020

Restaurant was closed, Bar was open with patrons at bar and standing near bar in violation of Emergency Directives. Minor was in bar, claimed to be an employee, lied about age and gave partial name. Minimal consumption suspected, but over limit for minors. 18 years of age. Referred to City Attorney. **Notice of Violation served on 08/17/2020 @ 3:17 pm: Incident #2020-16137, Served by Sgt. Moore**

Appeal Hearing before Elko City Council – Goldie’s Bar Business License Revocation – August 25, 2020

This hearing considered an appeal filed by Ron Goldie, owner of Goldie’s Bar, regarding the City Manager’s approval of the City Clerk’s decision to revoke the City of Elko business license issued to Goldie’s pursuant to City of Elko Code, Section 4-1-14, effective August 7, 2020. On August 6, 2020, the City of Elko conducted a hearing before the City Manager pursuant to Elko City Code (ECC) Section 4-1-14(B) to determine whether to approve or deny the City Clerk’s proposed revocation of Goldie’s business license. At the hearing, testimonial and physical evidence was presented, including the testimonies of the City Clerk, the Elko Police Chief, and representatives of the State of Nevada, Department of Health and Human Services (DHHS). Mr. Goldie personally testified and presented several witnesses on his behalf. Based upon the testimonies of the witnesses and documents provided, the City Manager made fourteen (14) individual findings of fact, and a subsequent analysis determined Goldie’s to be in direct violation of Emergency Directive 027, NRS 199.280, NRS 202.450(3), ECC 4-1-12(A)(1). Final City Council action included suspension of the business license subject to the following conditions; film must be removed from the windows/doors within seven days and obtain correct DHHS snack bar license within 45 days. Business operations may resume upon satisfying these conditions and the suspension will be automatically lifted, upon all proper documentation reviewed and verified by the City Clerk. Failure to comply with these conditions shall result in the suspension remaining in effect until further action of the City Council, at a public hearing.

Elko County Fair & Livestock Show – September 5-7, 2020

This event originally requested a Special Events Liquor License from the City of Elko. Partially through the permitting process, the City was notified by the Elko County Fair Board that they would not be serving alcohol and therefore the licensing process was suspended. However, upon review, the Elko County Fair did in fact sell alcohol through a third-party food and beverage concessionaire without City of Elko approval, thereby violating City Code and various Emergency Directives in place at that time. Upon further investigation by the City Clerk’s office, the food and beverage concessionaire was unaware that proper licensing had not be obtained by the Elko County Fair Board. Therefore, the City Clerk issued a verbal warning to the Food and Beverage Concessionaire and explained the proper procedure. The City of Elko is currently reviewing the lease agreement between the City and the Elko County Fair Board to determine if any lease terms and/or conditions have been violated by the Elko County Fair Board.

Enforcement Action Pending.

Special Event Consultations – September 8, 2020

The City Clerk met with Cooks Bar and Grill and La Fiesta Restaurant to discuss the requirements for providing food and beverage service to two (2) upcoming Special Events: Gold Rush Bull Riding Challenge and the Rides and Rods Car Show (both events received LEAP approval for the weekend of September 12 & 13, 2020).

Notice-of-Violation – Elko Adult Softball/Stephanie’s Tournament – September 11-13, 2020

This event was cancelled by the City of Elko on September 8, 2020, per the direction of Mr. Terry Reynolds, Director of Business and Industry. The City of Elko met with the President of Elko Adult Softball to explain the circumstances and consequences of holding a large, regional softball tournament on City of Elko facilities without authorization. Nonetheless, the tournament was held as a “peaceful protest,” resulting in the issuance of a Notice-of-Violation and revocation of Elko Adult Softball’s 2020 Field Permit. Additionally, Mr. Reynolds was contacted and the matter was referred to OSHA for further action. The Elko City Attorney has contacted the Elko County District Attorney to inquire about possible criminal charges per NRS, or possible referral to State of Nevada Attorney General. **Notice of Violation served on 09/11/2020 @ 11:41 PM: Elko Adult Softball, Incident #2020-18090, Served by Sgt. Locuson**

Business License/Special Event Consultations – September 18, 2020

The City Clerk met with Cowboys Bar to review Emergency Directives and Phase 2 Bar/Restaurant Guidelines. Various discussions held with Downtown Business Association representatives regarding possible “Wine Walks,” including the requirements to submit an Operations Plan for LEAP review/approval.

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

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

The City of Wells contracts our law enforcement to Elko County Sheriff. That said, the community is small enough that local administration can advise and assess activities within Wells. We have had communication with OSHA and requested their presences in our community to educate and assess local public businesses. They have been to Wells and have had overall success and have reported overall compliance with businesses. It is my

understanding that several businesses have received letters of instruction, but with second inspections have been found to be in compliance. No citations have been issued by OSHA.

The Well Senior Center has reopened for congregate meals, however, with social distancing, masks, and restaurant protocols strictly adhered to. Seniors are also advised daily to wash hands, and be aware of COVID requirements daily.

Events and activities larger than 50 people, continue to be cancelled.

The Department of Health has completed annual inspections also. Again, businesses have been generally in compliance with only minimal violations.

Wells has now been over two weeks with no active COVID cases. Citizens have been advised that active cases were the result of exposure outside the area and that travel outside of Wells should be very limited and clearly exposure to outsiders very limited.

In order to facilitate on-line school, the city supported a program with the Boys and Girls Club. Because youth safety is such a high concern, a written plan of operation with COVID being of greatest concern was required. The club temperature tests all students being admitted, restricts occupancy from non-affiliated residents and requires social distancing and masks. They disinfect every 4 hours the entire facility and all food consumption is from prepared products with no microwave usage allowed. This program has been the "poster child" for a successful educational program and has given the Elko County School District some confidence to accept school reopening plans from their administrators for their review.

Overall, the area feels much safer and feels that our COVID exposure is appropriately being managed.

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.

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.

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.

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, NRS 202.450, 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.”

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.