



## WASHOE COUNTY ASSESSMENT – October 29, 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 increase in numbers of cases occurring in the 30-59 year old age range, in addition to the 20-29 year old ranges in the last several weeks. We are also seeing an increase in cases in the 0-9 and 10-19 age ranges but not as large. A number of areas in the nation have seen initial increases in cases of 20-29 year age range, that then lead to higher number of new cases occurring in other age groups in their communities.

Washoe County test positivity rate and has increased over the past week from 8.5% to 9.1% in spite of the number of tests per day increasing. The number of tests per 100,000 population has increased from 260 per day to 296 tests per day. Sufficient testing capacity remains available at the POST. The new cases per 100,000 population continue to increase, this week rising 545 to 612. We remain concerned about the high number of cases that are coming from the 20-29 year old age range; however we are now seeing the increase in cases occurring more broadly across all age ranges in the community. As of October 27, the 7-day rolling average of new daily cases in Washoe County was 157, a 24% increase in new cases from the previous week.

The County has launched a marketing campaign 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 26, the relative burden on northern Nevada hospitals as a result of COVID-19 is 7% (hospitalized/ licensed bed count). Within the intensive care unit, the percentage of relative burden is 12% (COVID-19 hospitalized ICU/ licensed ICU beds). Licensed ICU beds in Washoe County hospital occupancy rates are 66% and 46% respectively for general hospital and intensive care units. 79% of staffed hospital beds are occupied. 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 16% of capacity; 6% of those ventilators are required by COVID patients.

Renown Health is currently working to increase their staffed ICU bed capacity due to capacity issues which have recently occurred in our healthcare system. Our Hospital Preparedness Program is coordinating with the hospitals on bed capacity and preparedness to implement Crisis Standards of Care related to resource allocation if this becomes necessary.

PPE is currently being purchased by healthcare facilities, as well as medication treatments. No shortages in PPE are currently occurring.

 <b>Nevada Hospital Association</b>			On hand supply of Ventilator Supplies	N95 mask	Other respirators such as PAPRs	surgical and procedure masks	eye protection	single use gowns	gloves
<b>Daily Hospital Stats</b> <b>27 October 2020</b>			<b>PPE STATUS LEVELS</b>						
Northern Nevada Medical Center	1	Was hoe	>30 Days	>30 Days	>30 Days	>30 Days	>30 Days	>30 Days	>30 Days
Renown South Meadows	1	Was hoe	>30 Days	>30 Days	>30 Days	>30 Days	>30 Days	>30 Days	>30 Days
Saint Mary's Regional Medical Center	1	Was hoe	>30 Days	>30 Days	>30 Days	>30 Days	>30 Days	>30 Days	>30 Days
VA Sierra Nevada Health Care System	1	Was hoe	>30 Days	>30 Days	>30 Days	>30 Days	>30 Days	>30 Days	>30 Days
Incline Village Community Hospital	1	Was hoe	NA	>30 Days	15-30 Days	>30 Days	>30 Days	>30 Days	15-30 Days
Renown Regional Medical Center	1	Was hoe	>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.**

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, 1,400 EOC
Gloves - Food Grade - M	19,200	EOC & RFD	0 RFD, 19200 EOC
Gloves - Food Grade - L	13,500	EOC & RFD	5,000 RFD, 8,500 EOC
Gloves - Food Grade - XL	12,100	EOC & RFD	6,600 RFD, 5,500 EOC
Gowns - Cloth - GC	909	EOC & RFD	150 RFD, 759 EOC (50 polyester/50 c
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, 10,260 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	489,970
Exam Gowns	EA		Varies	4,272
Face Shields	EA		Varies	5,180
Surgical Masks	EA		Varies	17,150
Tychem Suits	EA		Varies	754
PAPR Head Coverings and Hoses - assorted	EA		Varies	273
N95 Masks	EA		Varies	40,895

**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 20 (including 6 Guard). 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, seven days per week.

**Number of People tested in a day/week:**

11,977 tests results were reported for Washoe County for the week ending on October 27, or an average of 358 tests per day per 100,000 population.

The demand for testing from the public at the POST remains fairly high. However, 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. Currently the POST is meeting demand with scheduling of up to 450 people per day, however, actual testing conducted has exceeded 700 tests per day at that site. 397 people per day were tested on average over the past week on days that the POST operated.

#### **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. 400 test collection kits were provided to Reno Fire and the Washoe County Sheriff's Office during the past week. Tests are conducted under the direction of their medical directors and submitted directly to the NSPHL for testing.

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.

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

In order to reduce throughput and potential backlogs for receiving test results from the Nevada State Public Health Lab the County is utilizing Charles River Labs (CRL) to test specimens collected at the POST two days per week. NSPHL provides the test collection kits for the CRL analysis. CRL intends to expand capacity to 1900 tests per week but the timeline has been delayed as the automation equipment is back-ordered.

#### **4. Case Investigation and Contract Tracing**

##### **Current Contract Tracing Workforce:**

We currently have 59 staff supporting disease investigations, with approximately 25 working on any given day through a seven day week. 47 staff is employed through the UNR Nevada Public Health Training Center including 4 team leads, 40 disease investigators and 3 data entry personnel. We are currently working with UNR to add 8 additional disease investigation staff to reduce the backlog in case investigations currently experienced. There are 10 National Guard

members including 5 disease investigators and 5 data entry personnel. One WCHD staff member is serving as a lead investigator and one is providing data entry. They are supported by five staff epidemiologists.

Calling of case contacts identified through investigations is conducted by Deloitte contact tracers through the State contract.

**Positive Cases Contacted within 24 hours:**

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

Washoe County continues to improve the ability to conduct disease investigations to identify close contacts and establish ongoing contact in a timely manner. Additional staffing recruitment which is underway will further improve this response. A daily line list of close contacts identified is provided to Deloitte to contact for quarantine and monitoring.

A minimum of three 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 October 27, for the previous two weeks. 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 decreased further due to the increased demand occurring from the surging number of new cases that continue to occur in Washoe County. 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
10/14/20	200	198	2	99%
10/15/20	143	143	0	100%
10/16/20	189	163	26	86%
10/17/20	88	85	3	97%
10/18/20	41	37	4	90%
10/19/20	130	107	23	82%
10/20/20	168	92	76	55%
<b>Total</b>	<b>959</b>	<b>825</b>	<b>134</b>	<b>86%</b>

Date Reported	Total Reported	Completed	Remaining	% Investigated
10/21/20	207	96	111	46%
10/22/20	278	95	183	34%
10/23/20	134	27	107	20%
10/24/20	107	15	92	14%
10/25/20	133	23	110	17%
10/26/20	167	30	137	18%
10/27/20	192	2	190	1%
<b>Total</b>	<b>1218</b>	<b>288</b>	<b>930</b>	<b>24%</b>

### 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. Information from contact tracing for the most recent week is incomplete due to percent of disease investigations conducted, disease investigations occurring during the week of 10/14-10/20 found that people may have been exposed in a variety of settings including workplaces, groceries, social gatherings, restaurants, school, gas stations, churches, gyms, casino's, bars, and air travel. Private gatherings in which people are coming into close contact and interaction with others (included extended family members) outside of their immediate household is 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 cases was identified during the past two weeks include workplaces in the following sectors: education, healthcare, and warehouse/distribution,



manufacturing, and hospitality. During the week of 10/21-10/27 organizations that had more than four positive COVID-19 cases identified were WCSD students (54), WCSD staff (15), UNR Students (17), and Renown Health staff (5). The more complete investigation results that we now have from the week of 10/14-10/20 identified the following organizations that had more than four cases: K-12 students (61) and WCSD staff (13), the Salvation Army Adult Rehabilitation Program (35), University of Nevada, Reno (34), Renown Health (20), Fed Ex Freight (19), Tesla(7), Peppermill (6) and Panasonic (6) . Vulnerable populations in skilled nursing and memory care facilities and their staff have also been found to be sources of outbreaks. The Salvation Army Adult Rehabilitation Program is a congregate setting.

## **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**

***Please note: awaiting update on numbers from WCSO. An update will be provided to the Task Force on 10/29/20.***

On October 21<sup>st</sup>, 2020, the Washoe County Sheriff's Office reported that 11 inmates and 5 staff personnel have test positive for COVID-19.

As a result of these positive test results, the facility is now on lockdown in order to conduct contact tracing throughout the facility.

In the past 48 hours, a total of 276 inmates and 16 employees have been tested for the novel coronavirus and additional tests will be performed as necessary.

Effective immediately, the following mandates have been put into place:

- ✓ All staff are required to wear masks throughout the Detention Facility.
- ✓ All visiting, transports, and programs are suspended with exceptions to emergency transports outside the facility.
- ✓ All inmates are required to wear masks any time they are out of their cells.
- ✓ Tier time must be limited to ensure inmates can maintain social distancing.
- ✓ WCSO set up two asymptomatic COVID-19 testing clinics for employees.

The Washoe County Sheriff's Office will continue its practice of sanitizing the building and working in combination with the Washoe County Health District for further investigation, including identifying areas within the Facility where infected individuals have been.

### **Efforts and Interventions in High-Risk Communities**

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

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

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

### **6. Enforcement**

#### **Key takeaways for the week:**

- Bar and Tap Room Coalition continues to successfully self-police to meet standards.
- Reno completed 73 total inspections with 5 notice of violations issued and 1 notice of trespass issued.
- ***Of special note, Reno is seeing a rise of unauthorized social gatherings / parties occurring in parks and industrial locations by young adults age 16-25.***
- Sparks completed a total of 58 inspections for COVID related violations with no violations found.

**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 = 69 (City of Reno, City of Sparks and Unincorporated County)  
**Total Complaints March to October 23, 2020 = 1,769**

**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 = 526  
**Total Random Checks for July – October 23, 2020 = 1,234**

**City of Reno:**

- 14 complaint driven inspections - 1 non-compliant
- 46 random compliance inspections - 4 non-compliant
- 13 complaint driven social gatherings - 2 Non-compliant (1 parties were trespassing)

**City of Sparks:**

Monday, 10/19/20:

- Sparks staff conducted 12 inspections.
- All 12 inspections were random.
- 0 inspections were performed on bars.
- 0 of the 12 non-bar inspections were found to be in violation of the Governor’s directive.

Tuesday, 10/20/20:

- Sparks staff conducted 17 inspections.
- All 17 inspections were random.
- 0 inspections were performed on bars.
- 0 of the 17 non-bar inspections were found to be in violation of the Governor’s directive.

Wednesday, 10/21/20:

- Sparks staff conducted 14 inspections.
- All 14 inspections were random.
- 0 inspections were performed on bars.
- 0 of the 14 non-bar inspections were found to be in violation of the Governor’s directive.

Thursday, 10/22/20:

- Sparks staff conducted 15 inspections.
- All 15 inspections were random.
- 0 inspections were performed on bars.
- 0 of the 15 non-bar inspections were found to be in violation of the Governor's directive.

Friday, 10/23/20:

- Sparks staff conducted 0 inspections due to schedule.

### **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 were 20 inspections made of which 11 were from complaints and no businesses were found to be non-compliant.

### **7. County Action Plan**

As noted, transmission is widespread in Washoe County and can occur from interactions occurring at private gatherings, workplaces, in commercial businesses, educational facilities, recreational activities, and contact with infected household members. Based on current contact tracing investigations and enforcement inspections, we believe that private gatherings are a significant identifiable source of cases 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 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 soft launch of the campaign, *Mask On, Move On* began last week primarily directed at Spanish language and social media. Outreach media activity will increase after election day Tuesday when local media inventory is more available and can have a larger impact. Based on our contact tracing information on the largest drivers of spread in the region, the outreach campaign will focus on the Hispanic population and the 20-40 age group that make up the majority of cases.

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 if indoors and 25 or less outdoors. The County is also messaging to avoid trick or treating for Halloween, or private gatherings to celebrate Halloween, Dia de los Muertos, and Nevada Day and recommending safer alternatives for celebration.

Given the continued increases in the spread of COVID cases in the region over the most recent two weeks, Washoe County has not been able to meet the Task Force thresholds for new cases and positivity rates. As a result, the jurisdictions have agreed to return to the restriction level in place before implementation of Directive 33 by limiting the size of gatherings from the current 250 limit to 50 people or fewer while reviewing requests for outside events on a case by case basis. We recommend implementation of the new restrictions effective November 5<sup>th</sup> to allow local businesses adequate time to plan for this change and in consideration of currently planned activities around the elections. We recommend reviewing the region's progress two weeks following this change on November 19<sup>th</sup>. If we do not see adequate improvement in the metrics, we will propose further mitigation measures to the task force at that time.

In the interim we plan to ramp up a community call to action to help mitigate the spread utilizing our recently developed "Mask On Move On" outreach campaign. The local business community along with other stakeholders like WCSD, UNR, EDAWN and the Chamber will be engaged in this effort to communicate throughout the community that we all need to work together to reduce our new case numbers and positivity rates to avoid shut downs of our local businesses and industries.

We plan to continue the successful "Party Car" enforcement tactic in our urban areas. The jurisdictions will continue to expand commercial COVID-19 mask and social distancing enforcement while escalating enforcement on resisting businesses to local law enforcement or OSHA if necessary. Our enforcement teams are participating in joint enforcement activities with the State Business and Industry team this weekend in the region to improve enforcement execution and coordination.

We are also pursuing expanded rapid testing and contact tracing capacity to focus on our high risk zip codes and demographic sectors. With the elevated case numbers WCHD is in need of additional disease investigation and rapid testing capacity.

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 is 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.

Planning is underway with State DHHS for dispensing of COVID-19 vaccinations when they become available.