



WASHOE COUNTY ASSESSMENT – October 21, 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 numbers of cases occurring in the 10-19 year old, and 20-29 year old ranges as school and the University are open. These may be attributable to gatherings that are occurring outside of the institutional settings.

Washoe County test positivity rate and has increased over the past week from 8.2% to 8.5% in spite of the number of tests per day increasing. The number of tests per 100,000 population has increased from 237 per day to 260 per day. Sufficient testing capacity remains available at the POST. The new cases per 100,000 population continue to increase, this week rising 463 to 545. We remain concerned regarding cases coming from UNR students and from other gatherings. As of October 20, the 7-day rolling average of new daily cases in Washoe County was 127, a 27% increase in new cases from the previous week, and a 57% increase over two weeks.

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 18, the relative burden on northern Nevada hospitals as a result of COVID-19 is 6% (hospitalized/ licensed bed count). Within the intensive care unit, the percentage of relative burden is 15% (COVID-19 hospitalized ICU/ licensed ICU beds). Staffed ICU beds in Washoe County hospital occupancy rates are 65% and 48% 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 20% of capacity; 5% of those ventilators are required by COVID patients.

It is important to note that the Nevada Hospital Association statistics on occupancy are based on licensed beds in order to capture information on hospitals surging capacity beyond licensed beds. However, the since staffed beds are fewer than licensed beds, hospital capacity issues can occur when it appears that there is available capacity based on licensed beds. This occurred in Washoe County on October 19, when all three major hospitals in Washoe County were on an Emergency Department Divert status.

PPE is currently being purchased by healthcare facilities, as well as medication treatments. No update on PPE status for area hospitals was available at the time this report was prepared. It is anticipated that this information will be provided independently to the Task Force. No shortages in PPE are anticipated.

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	493,620
Exam Gowns	EA		Varies	4,372
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	274
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:

Due to data cleanup that occurred for the County test results reported by DHHS the total numbers of tests results reported for Washoe County to date were reduced by 2,217 tests in order to not duplicate tests resulting from rapid and PCR tests being conducted on the same individual. This makes it difficult to assess the total number of tests performed in Washoe county over the previous week. With the reduction of the 2,217 tests that occurred, 6,619 additional tests were added to the total to date for the week ending on October 20, or an

average of 219 tests per day per 100,000 population. The actual number is believed to be higher.

The demand for testing from the public at the POST is currently increasing. 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. 404 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.

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 conducted 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. On October 14, the Health District conducted a mobile POST and tested 86 individuals at the Women's Crossroads and Our Place shelter. 50 additional test kits were provided to Human Services Agency on October 20 for additional testing at Our Place.

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 56 disease investigation staff, with approximately 25 working on any given day through a seven day week. 43 staff are employed through the UNR Nevada Public Health Training Center. We are currently working with UNR to add 8 additional disease investigation staff to reduce the backlog in case investigations currently experienced. Four additional UNR disease investigators started on October 19. There are 9 National Guard members and one WCHD staff member that are also serving as disease investigation staff. They are supported by five staff epidemiologists.

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 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. 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.

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 20, 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 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	133	67	67%
10/15/20	143	89	54	62%
10/16/20	189	55	134	29%
10/17/20	88	26	62	30%
10/18/20	41	6	35	15%
10/19/20	130	26	104	20%
10/20/20	168	19	149	11%
Total	959	354	605	37%

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, groceries, social gatherings, restaurants, travel, gyms, churches, casinos, and bars. 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 cases was identified during the past week include workplaces in the following sectors: education, healthcare, and warehouse/distribution. 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 (70), the Salvation Army Adult Rehabilitation Program (35), University of Nevada, Reno (34), Fed Ex Freight (8), and Renown Health (5). 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

On October 21st, 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 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 4th 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 has 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:

- No fines were assessed.
- Bar and Tap Room Coalition continues to successfully self-police to meet standards.
- Reno completed 71 total inspections, with 52 inspections being random and resulting in 4 non-compliant businesses.
- Reno also received 19 complaints which were inspected, and all business were found to be compliant.
- Sparks completed a total of 48 inspections for COVID related violations. 1 of the 48 inspections were found to have violations to the Governor's directive.
- As of October 16th, Sparks has completed inspections of all businesses with a business license usage as a standalone bar.

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 = 42 (City of Reno, City of Sparks and Unincorporated County)
Total Complaints March to October 5, 2020 = 1,742

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 = 413

Total Random Checks for July – October 16, 2020 = 1,121

Additional Enforcement Measures in place:

City of Reno:

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

- 48 compliant businesses.
- 4 non-compliant businesses.

City of Sparks:

Monday, 10/12/20:

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

Tuesday, 10/13/20:

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

Wednesday, 10/14/20:

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

Thursday, 10/15/20:

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

Friday, 10/16/20:

- Sparks staff conducted 0 inspections due to scheduled time off.

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 11 inspections made of which two were from complaints. One business was 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 this week. A broader launch will occur after the election when advertising can have a larger impact. 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. Particular emphasis will be reaching the 18-24 year age range.

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.

The Governor's Directive 033 has allowed gatherings of up to 250 people and larger approved events to occur. The Health District released an announcement on October 8 that gatherings or events of over 250 people would not be approved by the Health District in Washoe County until the Health District had an opportunity to assess after thirty days the impact of the gatherings of up to 250 individuals on the health infrastructure. The Health District acknowledged it would consider on a case-by-case basis gatherings of over 250 in outdoor fixed seating venues. Based on the lower risk of transmission occurring outdoors, observations of the gathering of 250 that occurred at Greater Nevada Field on 10/10, and adjustments to the plan submitted for up to 700 spectators for the MLS playoffs, the Health District approved the Greater Nevada Field Plan on 10/13. The Field was open to 700 spectators on October 17, however, FC 1868 lost the match and no further playoff matches will occur.

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 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.

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