



## WASHOE COUNTY ASSESSMENT – November 5, 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 continue to see a significant increase in the number 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 10-19 age range 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's test positivity rate has increased over the past week from 9.1% to 10.8% in spite of the number of tests per day increasing. The number of tests per 100,000 population has increased from 296 per day to 301 tests per day. Sufficient testing capacity remains available at the POST. The new cases per 100,000 population continue to increase, this week rising 612 to 783. 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 November 3, the 7-day rolling average of new daily cases in Washoe County was 187, a 19% 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 November 2, the relative burden on northern Nevada hospitals as a result of COVID-19 is 8% (hospitalized/ licensed bed count). Within the intensive care unit, the percentage of relative burden is 14% (COVID-19 hospitalized ICU/ licensed ICU beds). Licensed ICU beds in Washoe County hospital occupancy rates are 67% and 46% respectively for general hospital and intensive care units. 81% of staffed hospital beds are occupied. Staffing is starting to become

an issue. Hospitals are working on staffing plans to continue to provide care for citizens and visitors of Washoe County. Ventilator usage is at 17% of capacity; 6% of those ventilators are required by COVID patients.

As of November 4, the Nevada Hospital Association reports that the resurgence of COVID-19 in the north is contributing to stress of the Northern Nevada healthcare infrastructure along with increasing all-cause hospitalizations. 88 percent of staffed beds were occupied, 73 percent of licensed beds, and 60 percent of licensed ICU beds.

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>Daily Hospital Stats</b> <b>3 November 2020</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>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	>30 Days	>30 Days	>30 Days	>30 Days	>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.**

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	485,320
Exam Gowns	EA		Varies	4,222
Face Shields	EA		Varies	5,169
Surgical Masks	EA		Varies	17,050
Tychem Suits	EA		Varies	754
PAPR Head Coverings and Hoses - assorted	EA		Varies	273
N95 Masks	EA		Varies	40,875

**Testing Capacity**

**Testing Criteria:**

Testing is currently open to individuals 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 21 (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:**

8,056 tests results were reported for Washoe County for the week ending on November 3, or an average of 241 tests per day per 100,000 population. However, the test results data provided by the State included an adjustment which reduced test results by over 1,500 on October 29, so actual testing may be higher for this period.

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 did not operate on Nevada day last week, or on Election Day this week. It 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 but has increased testing to scheduling of up to 600 people per day. 403 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 is working with State DEM, the National Guard, and regional partners to establish testing locations in several zip codes with elevated active cases. Further information is provided in the action plan section. On November 4, COVID-19 testing was provided in Gerlach.

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 57 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 9 National Guard members including 5 disease investigators and 4 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 and Overview of Contract Tracing Efforts:**

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 tables below, which are current as of the evening of November 3, for the previous two weeks. The number of new positive cases reported each day varies and delays result when a large number of cases are reported in a single day or are consistently reported as is now occurring. 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. A more streamlined process for student exclusions in schools is being planned to improve the efficiency of Disease Investigator utilization. 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
10/21/20	207	207	0	100%
10/22/20	278	256	22	92%
10/23/20	134	120	14	90%
10/24/20	107	97	10	91%
10/25/20	133	79	54	59%
10/26/20	167	78	89	47%
10/27/20	241	79	162	33%
<b>Total</b>	<b>1267</b>	<b>916</b>	<b>351</b>	<b>72%</b>

During the week of 10/21-10/27 organizations that had more than four positive COVID-19 cases identified were Washoe County School District students (94), WCSD staff (22), UNR students (40), Washoe County Detention Center Inmates (25), Sheriff’s Office staff (5), Renown Health (18), Tesla (10), Panasonic (8), Grand Sierra Resort (6), VA Medical Center (5), Reno Orthopedic Clinic (5), Rosewood Rehabilitation Facility (5). Other workplaces identified with 2 or more cases include casinos and warehouse/distribution centers.

Date Reported	Total Reported	Completed	Remaining	% Investigated
10/28/20	267	73	194	27%
10/29/20	247	48	199	19%
10/30/20	116	11	105	9%
10/31/20	114	19	95	17%
11/1/20	73	5	68	7%
11/2/20	201	16	185	8%
11/3/20	344	9	335	3%
<b>Total</b>	<b>1362</b>	<b>181</b>	<b>1181</b>	<b>13%</b>

More limited data from incomplete investigations conducted for new cases during the past week found that during the week of 10/28- 11/3 organizations that had more than four positive COVID-19 cases included Washoe County Detention Center Inmates (15), Sheriff’s Office staff (6), Washoe County School District students (14), and WCSD staff (6).

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 10/21-10/27 found that people may have been exposed in a variety of settings, the most common places visited during the two weeks before people became infected included workplaces and grocery stores, followed by social gatherings, restaurants, school, gas stations,



gyms, casinos, bars, air travel, and church. The most common places that people where while infectious with COVID-19 include work and school, followed by grocery stores, social gatherings, restaurants, casinos, air travel, bars, and gyms.

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.

## **5. Protection of Vulnerable Populations**

### **Efforts and interventions in skilled nursing facilities**

See the information provided on testing, above. Skilled nursing facilities are licensed by the State and the State has the lead in working with the facility on outbreaks and for patients involved. The Health District is responsible for the disease investigation and contact tracing of staff that test positive for COVID-19. In addition to providing or facilitating access to test collection kits, the County has also provided PPE resources to these facilities.

### **Efforts and Interventions in Correctional facilities**

The Washoe County Detention Facility continues to investigate, triage and take mitigating measures to limit the recent spread of COVID-19 within the facility.

In summary:

- There have been 47 Covid+ inmates since October 21, 2020.
- As of today, 19 of those cases are still active with COVID-19 and the inmates are being housed in an isolation unit within the Detention facility.
- Of the 19 active cases, 4 are experiencing active symptoms and 15 are asymptomatic.
- On November 4, 2020, approximately 109 inmates were tested for COVID-19.
- 14 WCSO staff have tested positive during this time.
- 1500+ inmates and staff have been tested during the COVID-19 pandemic.

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

The County has worked with regional partners to prevent outbreaks in the homeless population. A temporary men's shelter location has been established on 4<sup>th</sup> Street which provides for six-foot separation of the residents. The Our Place women's and family shelter

facility continues to provide 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 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:

- City of Sparks performed 31 random business inspections for the week, with zero inspections being at bars as all bars in the jurisdiction have already been inspected. The inspections resulted in zero citations.
- Reno completed 49 total inspections with 4 notice of violations issued and 1 Notification To Comply with citation issued.
- ***Of special note:***
  - ***Reno received 8 complaints related to social gatherings. All gatherings were disbanded with 3 being non-compliant. Additionally, 6 citations and 1 arrest were issued for social gatherings involving juveniles.***
  - ***WCSO closed down a party with over 200 juveniles in Verdi.***

### **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 = 94 (City of Reno, City of Sparks and Unincorporated County)  
**Total Complaints March to October 31, 2020 = 1,794**

### **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 = 589

**Total Random Checks for July – October 31, 2020 = 1,297**

**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, 10/26/20:**

- Sparks staff conducted 11 random inspections.
- 0 of the 11 non-bar inspections were found to be in violation of the Governor’s directive.

**Tuesday, 10/27/20:**

- Sparks staff conducted 9 random inspections.
- 0 of the 9 non-bar inspections were found to be in violation of the Governor’s directive.

**Wednesday, 10/28/20:**

- Sparks staff conducted 11 random inspections.
- 0 of the 11 non-bar inspections were found to be in violation of the Governor’s directive.

**Thursday, 10/29/20:**

- Sparks staff conducted 0 inspections due to schedule.

**Friday, 10/30/20:**

- Sparks staff conducted 0 inspections due to holiday.

**Unincorporated Washoe County:**

We continue to complete random business checks in unincorporated Washoe County. Last week, there were 16 inspections made of which 11 were from complaints, five were random and no businesses were found to be non-compliant.

**7. County Action Plan**

As a result of guidance received during the COVID-19 Task Force meeting last week, the regional partners have taken steps to escalate mitigation efforts to include:

**A. Further Limit Gathering Size:**

1. Effective November 5, 2020 public gatherings in the County will be limited to 50 people or less for all indoor events.
2. Outside events will continue to be limited to 50 people or less with larger events evaluated on a case by case basis

**B. Enforcement:**

1. All three jurisdictions have agreed to increase enforcement activity by redoubling efforts to inspect those businesses most likely to need enforcement based on contact tracing information, prior history and working in consultation with OSHA and the Nevada Department of Business and Industry. In the case of Sparks and unincorporated areas of the County we anticipate making multiple inspection visits to individual businesses between now and the end of the year.
2. Conduct weekly meetings with Business and Industry team to improve alignment of inspection execution and to ensure local enforcement teams are focused on the right business to improve compliance.
3. The City of Reno is revising their citation policies to provide an additional deterrent to non-compliant businesses.
4. The City of Sparks is retaining an outside street team resource to expand the number of inspections conducted in commercial businesses.
5. All three jurisdictions will continue to utilize the “Party Car” concept established in Reno to shut down private gatherings. As an example, last weekend the Washoe County Sheriff’s Office shut down a Halloween private party with over 200 juveniles and young adults in the Verdi area of unincorporated Washoe County.

**C. Surge Testing:**

1. We are collaborating with the State Department of Emergency Management to implement pop up testing in priority zip codes that have high infection rates.
2. The initial target zip codes will be 89431 and 89502 which are generally Latino communities or communities with a high percentage of young adults.
3. The Cities of Reno and Sparks are planning public messaging to drive awareness of pop up testing availability in these communities on a nonscheduled, first come first served basis with the sessions scheduled for evenings and weekends to accommodate the schedules of the working public.
4. The National Guard has agreed to staff these testing events and provide the required testing supplies and PPE. The local emergency management organizations will provide the logistical support.

5. We have requested assistance with prioritization of these lab results as current test result lead times in the region are running about 6 to 7 days.

**D. Public Outreach Campaign (Update from RIC):**

In the assessment provided on October 29<sup>th</sup>, an overview of the regional *Mask On Move On* campaign was provided to the task force. Funded by the City of Reno, City of Sparks, and Washoe County, this campaign launched the week of October 19<sup>th</sup>. The campaign targets demographics prone to higher COVID transmission rates and messages focus on following safe social distancing practices.

Over the course of the next few weeks, the *Mask On Move On* campaign will continue ramping up and become more prevalent within Washoe County. To support this campaign and create a groundswell of messaging within our community, the City of Reno has undertaken the following additional efforts:

- Hispanic/Spanish Speaking: The City of Reno has hired IC Media Strategies to assist with pandemic communications to Reno's Hispanic population and to develop a paid communications strategy to amplify the messaging from the *Mask On Move On* campaign within Reno's Spanish speaking community.
- UNR Partnership: The City of Reno has partnered with a team from the UNR Journalism School to develop a grassroots outreach campaign for students that encourages social distancing and discourages participation in off campus gatherings. This campaign will support the regional *Mask On Move On* campaign and UNR's #ProtectThePack campaign.
- Utilize community based social media (Next Door, etc.)
- Outreach to UNR fraternities and sororities

Regional partners will continue to expand communications and education efforts throughout the community to provide residents with the tools they need including information about mobile testing locations, promotion of the State's COVID Trace app, and updates regarding the COVID Risk Meter.

**E. Risk Meter:**

- We continue to make refinements to the regional COVID Risk Meter to include staffed beds instead of licensed beds.
- For the purposes of future assessment and action plan reports to the task force, we plan to issue a weekly Risk Meter reading to coincide with each reporting period instead of a daily reading.

- The meter readings to provide guidance to our local community regarding appropriate mitigation behavior but not as the metric that drives regional mitigation actions for government and business organizations.