

## **State of Nevada Health District Jurisdiction Assessment and Action Plan Churchill County for COVID-19 Task Force 11/19/2020**

### **Overall Assessment:**

Churchill County has seen significant spread in the county from October 30 to November 12 with a total confirmed positives of 201. This represents a 42% of all of the counties positives test have come within the past two weeks. County Leadership recognizes this significance and is committed to taking sweeping action to assist in control of the spread.

### **Population of Positives:**

Churchill County is seeing the spread in a very even manner across our population to include; retired, construction, private businesses, students, teachers, air base, city and county government, long term care facilities and agriculture.

### **Source of spread:**

Again we are seeing spread across the community and through contact tracing we are unable to identify a specific significant source.

**Hospital Capacity:** We continue to have hospital capacity with 5 current COVID patients admitted. This number represents 59% of total hospital capacity. Banner is currently using all available ventilators and is requesting additional ones from the state.

Banner Churchill capacity report is included with the hospital report shared with this committee each week.

### **Access to Personal Protective Equipment:**

Over recent weeks we have struggled to get PPE request through the DEM process for our ongoing weekly asymptomatic testing. There seems to be some issues at DEM with approval and allocation process. We are also struggling to get PPE allocations for our long term care facility that is required to test twice a week. Currently the county is having to supply this material even as this is a state approved facility that reports directly to the state.

### **Testing Capacity:**

Surrounding medical facilities (Banner, Renown, local MD's) are handling all symptomatic testing in our community and the county is managing all asymptomatic testing. Asymptomatic testing has been under way since June of this year and during low positive rate times we have seen as few as 100 tests per week to our current weekly numbers of 300 to 400 tests per week. We continue to struggle with the delayed turn around in results from the state lab. The delayed turn around in results directly impact the relevance of case tracing.

### **Case Investigation and Contact Tracing:**

Currently, contact tracing is done through our County Health Office with 100% case notice within 24 hours and 100% case contact notice within 48 hours. However, the majority of the time these notices of positivity or contact are made within 8 hours of the county receiving notification. We continue to struggle with the delay in test results and its impact on the significance contact tracing. In a majority of our cases the individual is notified of the positive and per CDC recommended quarantine is under a 4 day quarantine due to the 6 days it took to receive the test results. By the time we perform the contact tracing 6 days after the test, the individual has had a significant opportunity to have spread the virus in the community.

### **Protection of Vulnerable Populations:**

Currently the oversight of long-term care facilities is monitored through the State of Nevada, with notifications from county contract tracing. Churchill County is engaged in ongoing communication with these facilities to limit outside visitors and maintain surveillance testing. The county notifies facilities if any risk is identified during contract tracing related to any facility that serves vulnerable populations. This list includes but is not limited to The William N. Pennington Life Center, Homestead Assisted Living, Tungland Corp Group Homes, Churchill Area Regional Transportation, Highland Manor, Churchill County Social Services, and New Frontier Treatment Center to list just a few.

### **Enforcement:**

#### **County Level Information:**

Churchill County agencies include all county departments and law enforcement as needed. The county has maintained its acceptable control of disease spread through the tracking system developed by the state and has not had to take enforcement action to date. We have had voluntary compliance when issues have arisen (restaurant closure). We have observed good compliance of mandates within our community. Additionally, the county has been heavily focused on public education through press releases and public service announcements provided by county and city leadership.

Two weeks prior to Governors Sisolak's press conference on November 10<sup>th</sup> our county started transitioning all meetings to virtual and limiting county building access. This week we moved to appointment only requirements at county facilities.

The county has just employed a code enforcement officer who is currently being trained in the governor's executive orders around covid-19. Starting the week of November 16<sup>th</sup> this employee will be doing visitations to local businesses to evaluate compliance. Letters of compliance will be initiated as a result of these visits. The county will provide compliance data to the taskforce starting the week of November 23, 2020.

#### **City Level Information:**

The City of Fallon has implemented and followed an observe/receive, discuss, educate and then enforce policy to ensure compliance with all of the Governor's directives and regulations. The community has responded well to these efforts, and the City has been able to obtain voluntary

compliance from nearly all of the businesses contacted. These successful contacts and follow-ups have been made by City staff, and, in cases that warrant it, the City of Fallon Police Department. The City has also worked with state agencies, including Business and Industry and the Cosmetology Board, to discuss and evaluate event and business compliance.

Throughout the pandemic, the City has produced and disseminated a number of messages, press releases and social media posts aimed at public education. The City has also undertaken a Friday business spotlight campaign on social media in which the Mayor, City Councilmembers and City staff visit and highlight businesses within the City that are safe and open. Businesses must be in compliance with the Governor's directives and mask mandate in order to be included in the campaign.

In response to the recent increase in COVID cases in our community, the City has temporarily closed City Hall to the public. All non-essential meetings have either been cancelled or moved to virtual only. The City will continue to monitor businesses and seek compliance utilizing existing City staff and the Fallon Police Department.

### **County Action Plan:**

Churchill County intends to continue focusing on education, community testing, rapid contact tracing response and compliance as illustrated above. The county working with city will prepare new PSA's focused on reinforcing the need for compliance. These PSA's are being released starting on 11/16/2020.