



**NEVADA
HEALTH
RESPONSE**

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COVID-19 Press Bulletin for 12-11-2020

Carson City, NV — Today, Caleb Cage, Nevada COVID-19 Response Director and Julia Peek, Deputy Administrator of Community Health Services, were joined by Candice McDaniel, Health Bureau Chief for the Bureau of Child, Family, and Community Wellness to provide updates on Nevada's ongoing COVID-19 response, testing, reporting and vaccination planning during a teleconference with members of the media.

This bulletin provides facts, figures, and informational items from the call. As a reminder, data is provided in a dashboard on the home page of the [Nevada Health Response](https://www.nvhealthresponse.nv.gov) website and can be accessed 24 hours a day.

SUMMARY:

- As of today, Nevada has logged 181,310, an increase of 2,783 new cases since yesterday.
- For the most recent 7-day period, cases are growing at a rate of 1.6%, or 2,697 new cases per day. *(Note: Clark County provided an updated report. The dashboard has been updated to reflect the updated numbers)*
- Nevada has now completed a total of 1,795,433 molecular tests since the beginning of COVID-19.

- The test positivity rate over the last 14 days is 21.9%.
- Nevada's Effective Reproduction Rate or $r(t)$ is now at 1.08 according to rt.live.
 - Though still greater than 1.0, which Nevada last hit on Aug. 31, it has remained at 1.07 - 1.08 for over a month.
 - In order to slow the spread of this virus in the state, that number must be less than 1.0. This means, for every person infected they are infecting one or less person.
 - Right now, for every person infected there is an additional 1.07 persons infected.
- Nevada continues to see increases in hospitalizations on a statewide basis with 1,854 COVID-19 hospitalizations (1,697 confirmed; 157 suspected) However, according to reports from the Nevada Hospital Association (NHA), some regional areas are starting to recede.
- In rural and northern parts of the state, the wave that started on approximately Sept. 10 represents the first distinguishable hospitalization wave of the pandemic for those areas.
 - While both of these regions are still experiencing very high levels of COVID-19 hospitalization, appreciable declines are noticeable, according to the NHA.
 - The high-water mark for this wave appears to have occurred early December when the north had 338 confirmed COVID-19 patients hospitalized and the rural region had 55 confirmed hospitalizations.
 - Yesterday, the north stood at 315 and the rural region at 51 confirmed COVID-19 patients hospitalized.

- In the southern region, hospitalizations have yet to peak as the area remains in the midst of their third hospitalization wave, according to the NHA.
 - Confirmed COVID-19 hospitalizations for this region are currently 1,331 (up from the prior day).
- Since the beginning of COVID in the state to today, a total of 38,645 cases have been identified as a result of contact tracing efforts statewide. This now represents 21.3% of the total cases reported to date.
- Surge staffing effort updates are provided on a weekly basis. A total of 244,233 calls have been logged since mid-June. The following updates reflect the period of Nov. 30 – Dec. 6.
 - A total of 12,736 calls were logged.
 - A total of 26,169 text messages were sent to close contacts
 - Of those, 8,857 were unique contacts
 - The peak response rate was 87% on Nov. 30.
- There are now a total of 136,291 downloads of the COVID Trace app, as of last night.
 - A total of 85 cases had the app at the time of their diagnosis and 56 related exposure notifications have been sent as a result of those cases.
- Yesterday, Nevada also launched the [Exposure Notification Express tool](#). More than 40,000 people opted into ENX in the first 24 hours.
 - Individuals can take advantage of ENX through the COVID Trace app OR by opting in when prompted by their phone. Those with the COVID Trace app already do not need to do anything else. The COVID Trace app is still available through the Apple App Store and on Android in the Google Play Store.

Candice McDaniel, Health Bureau Chief for the Bureau of Child, Family, and Community Wellness to provided updates on the State's vaccination planning efforts.

- The Pfizer vaccine was reviewed yesterday and recommended for emergency use authorization approval by the Food and Drug Administration's Vaccines and Related Biological Products Advisory Committee (VRBPAC).
- Next, the FDA will review the Committee's recommendation and is expected to issue that Emergency Use Authorization.
- Then the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention Advisory Committee on Immunization Practices (ACIP) will take all the clinical information and define recommendations for use of Pfizer's COVID-19 vaccine.
- Finally, ACIP is meeting December 12-13 to define and issue those recommendations and, if approved, the arrival of initial doses are expected shortly after.
- The Moderna vaccine is scheduled to be reviewed by the VRBPAC on Dec. 17.
- The Nevada State Immunization Program's has been planning for the COVID-19 vaccine in Nevada and been working with partners statewide to ensure there is a vetted, tested process to move the vaccine to communities statewide.
- Last Friday the Department of Defense and CDC informed the state that the December COVID-19 vaccine allocation would be 164,150 doses.

- The allocation will include 91,650 doses of Pfizer vaccine and 72,500 from Moderna.
 - This, of course, is subject to change.
- These anticipated numbers account for first doses only; the state is guaranteed the same number of vaccines from the federal government to cover the necessary second doses.
- The State will continue to apply a data-driven approach to allocate the available vaccine supply to health care and critical infrastructure workers in those counties with elevated risks of exposure.
- The Nevada COVID-19 Vaccination Program Tiers were designed to mitigate as much death and disease to the general population and plans are continually updated to ensure equitable vaccine access to Nevada communities.
- Nevada will follow the ACIP's Ethical Principles for Allocating Initial Supplies of COVID-19 Vaccine as the state moves through the tiers.
- A couple final things to remember are that both the Pfizer and Moderna vaccines require two doses to be fully effective.
- Also, the possible side effects including a low-grade fever, fatigue, and arm soreness the day after vaccination are normal side effects and mean the vaccine is doing its job.
- The most current version of [Nevada's COVID-19 Vaccination Program Playbook](#) can be found here.

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