CARSON CITY, NV — The Nevada COVID-19 Mitigation and Management Task Force heard presentations from the University of Nevada, Las Vegas; Nevada Department of Health and Human Services and the Nevada State Immunization Program; Pharmaceutical Research and Manufacturers of America; and the Nevada Department of Education during its weekly meeting Thursday.

All counties in Nevada, with the exception of Storey County, were flagged for elevated disease transmission this week. All flagged counties met the criteria of a high case rate per 100,000 and had a high test positivity rate. Lincoln County was the only county flagged for low testing, with an average number of 84 tests per day per 100,000.

Due to the State’s current “pause” status, the Task Force’s meeting was focused on ongoing informational updates and briefings rather than through individual county plans.

University of Nevada, Las Vegas provided a presentation on the university’s response to COVID-19 which explored several topics such as their mitigation efforts for students, faculty and staff at the UNLV; adjustments to
operations; and overall contributions of expertise and community resources.

The Department of Health and Human Services (DHHS) and Nevada State Immunization Program (NSIP) provided an overview of Nevada’s plan to distribute vaccine throughout the state pending federal approval. NSIP also presented on the current status of flu in the state and the Influenza Data Dashboard, which has contains influenza vaccination coverage rates by county, age, and gender across the state and compares rates to the two previous flu seasons.

The Pharmaceutical Research and Manufacturers of America (PhRMA) provided the Task Force with an overview on efforts to develop a COVID-19 vaccine by their member organizations and the federal government. PhRMA highlighted that due to robust existing infrastructure, prototype vaccines were in the process of being developed after only approximately 72 hours of knowing the genetic sequence of COVID-19.

The Nevada Department of Education (NDE) provide the Task Force with an overview of mitigation efforts for students, faculty, and staff within the Nevada Department of Education. NDE referenced State and national statistics that schools and childcare facilities do not appear to be vectors of spread for COVID-19. Schools have the ability to take on and enforce precautionary measures to limit spread.

More information about the task force can be found online on the Nevada Health Response page.

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