



**NEVADA
HEALTH
RESPONSE**

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COVID-19 Press Bulletin for 2-26-2021

Carson City, NV — Today, Caleb Cage, Nevada COVID-19 Response Director and Candice McDaniel, Health Bureau Chief for the Bureau of Child, Family, and Community Wellness, were joined by Karissa Loper, Deputy Bureau Chief for the Bureau of Child, Family, and Community Wellness.

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](#) website and can be accessed 24 hours a day.

SUMMARY:

- As of today, Nevada has logged 293,029 cases, with the 14-day rolling average of daily cases being 314.
- Nevada has now completed a total of 2,702,912 molecular tests since the beginning of COVID-19.
- The test positivity rate over the last 14 days is 8.3%.
- The Nevada Hospital Association (NHA) reports Nevada is continuing to see a downward trajectory in hospitalizations.

- The NHA is also reporting there are currently 509 COVID-19 hospitalizations (437 confirmed; 72 suspected).
- As of February 25, 620,027 doses of COVID-19 vaccine have been administered and reported to NV WebIZ.
- The Department of Health and Human Services continues to watch the process at the federal level for the Johnson & Johnson vaccine and will be ready to accept this vaccine when it is deemed safe and effective.
- Today, the Johnson & Johnson vaccine is being reviewed by a Food and Drug Administration committee.
- In addition to only requiring one dose, the Johnson & Johnson vaccine has some other differences from the Pfizer and Moderna vaccines.
- It is easier to transport and store because it can be refrigerated for three months.
- Also, this vaccine was not tested in the same settings as the Pfizer and Moderna vaccines.
- Unlike those vaccines, the Johnson & Johnson vaccine was tested through an ensemble study in the U.S., but also in South America and South Africa, where some of the most challenging COVID-19 variants originate.
- Finally, the Johnson & Johnson vaccine is a different type of vaccine than those previously available.

- The Pfizer and Moderna vaccines are both mRNA vaccines, which delivers a dose of the virus' genetic code. The Johnson & Johnson COVID vaccine is a more traditional approach, which delivers viral protein and triggers an immune response.
- The Biden Administration recently launched the Community Health Centers COVID-19 Vaccination Program to ensure underserved communities and those disproportionately affected by COVID-19 are equitably vaccinated against the virus.
- This program will provide vaccines directly to Federally Qualified Health Center clinics (or FQHCs) and through this program vaccine will be available in local clinics, and from providers, that are known and trusted by the community.
- Earlier this week Nevada was notified that select FQHCs in Nevada are now eligible to order vaccine as part of Cohort 2 of this program, with additional clinics coming online next week.
- The locations selected by the Health Resources and Services Administration (HRSA) were chosen based on their proven ability to serve a significant number of people experiencing homelessness, migrant/seasonal agricultural workers, residents of public housing, those with limited English proficiency and those 65 and older.
- Five initial clinic sites have been chosen in Nevada in collaboration with the Nevada State Immunization Program. These initial clinics have met all the criteria requirements to safely store, handle, administer, and report COVID vaccines through the Nevada WebIZ system.

- The selected clinics will be able to order directly from HRSA and also from the state-allocated doses.
- This program will complement the Governor's initiative to ensure equitable vaccine access.

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