



**NEVADA
HEALTH
RESPONSE**

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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COVID-19 Press Bulletin for 3-22-2021

Carson City, NV — Today, Caleb Cage, Nevada COVID-19 Response Director was joined by Dr. Mark Pandori, Director of Nevada State Public Health Laboratory to provide an update on COVID-19 efforts in the state.

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 301,334 cases, with the 14-day rolling average of daily cases being 204.
- Nevada has now completed a total of 2,889,644 molecular tests since the beginning of COVID-19.
- A 5% or lower test positivity rate is a goal of the World Health Organization and an indicator of a low burden of disease in our communities.
- Today, our test positivity rate is 4.8% but all Nevadans are encouraged to be diligent in their mitigation measures.
- The Nevada Hospital Association is reporting there are currently 300 COVID-19 hospitalizations (232 confirmed; 68 suspected).

Nevada State Public Health Laboratory

- Nevada continues to perform genomic analysis of positive SARS-CoV-2 cases 7 days a week.
- There is a high diversity of variants found in Nevada.
- There are four variants that make up 65% of all cases:
 - B.1 and B.1.2 variants are the most common variants in Nevada, and they are the most common in the United State. These are not variants of concern.
 - B.1.427 and B.1.429 are the so-called "California" variant. These have been seen in NV cases since mid-December. They make up approximately a quarter of all cases in NV. The CDC considers these variants of concern.
- The California Variant may be less susceptible to a monoclonal antibody therapy and may be more infectious.
- The B.1.1.7 UK variant was first seen in NV about 1 month ago. For three weeks there were no additional cases. Last week, 37 more cases were identified.
- This variant comes in ninth place in our list of variants in Nevada.
- Nevada's test positivity rate continues to decline, even as Variants of Concern circulate in the state.

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