



# ROADMAP TO RECOVERY: TRANSITION PLAN



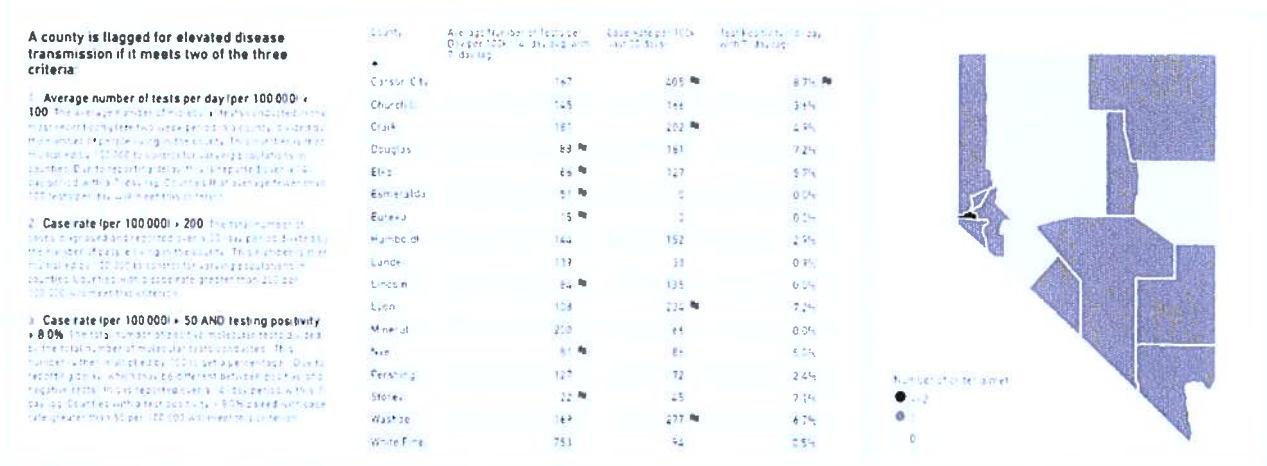
## Nye County Mitigation & Enforcement Plan

April 20, 2021

## Overall Assessment

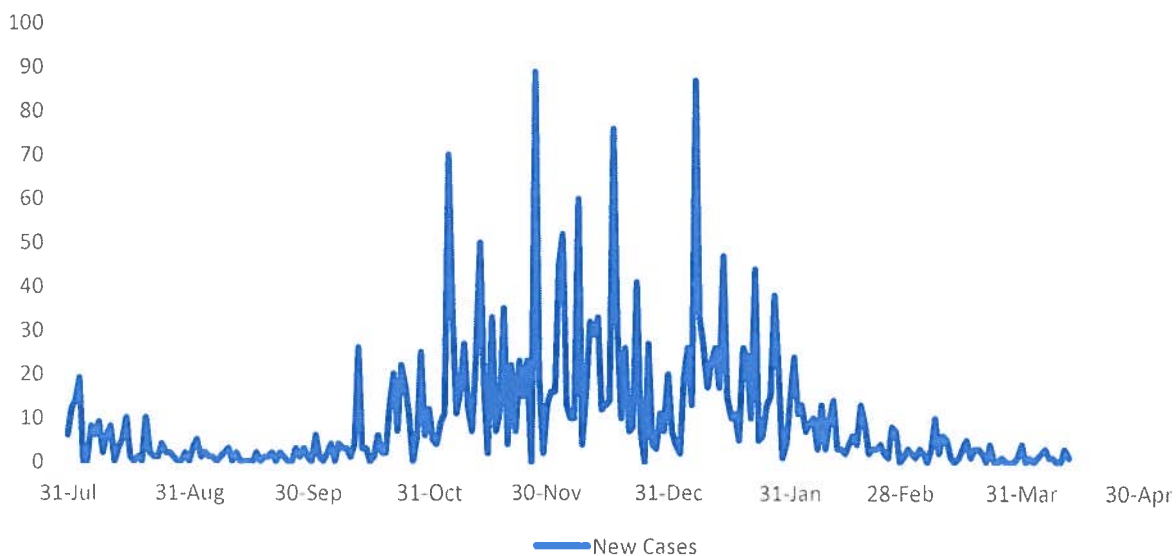
Since the beginning of the pandemic, Nye County has been proactive and cooperative with the State. Nye County's COVID mitigation efforts over the past year have been exemplary. Nye County ranks second among the rural counties for COVID tests performed and third among the rural counties for total vaccine doses administered. Nye County has not taken this pandemic lightly. Approximately eight months ago, Nye County requested and received permission from the Task Force to allow liquor establishments in rural areas to reopen. At that time, Nye County provided assurances to the Task Force that there would be no notable increase in COVID cases attributable to this action. There was no notable increase. In submitting this transition plan, Nye County respectfully requests the same deference to local control demonstrated by the Task Force eight months ago.

Nye County remains unflagged for elevated disease transmission and has not been flagged since March 8, approximately six weeks ago:



As shown below, our daily COVID case count has also continued to decline over the last few months:

### New COVID Case Count



Based on these metrics and the information below, Nye County is prepared to assume local control of managing the pandemic beginning May 1, 2021.

## Monitoring

### Covid-19 Measures and Indicators

Nye County has monitored and will continue to monitor the following measures and indicators to determine the nature of the virus within our community:

- Daily new cases
- Daily tests
- Test positivity rate
- Daily vaccination rates
- Daily COVID deaths
- Daily hospitalization rate (confirmed and suspected)
- Daily ICU and ventilator use (confirmed and suspected)

Confirmed cases, tests, deaths and vaccinations will continue to be monitored by specific demographics such as age, gender, race/ethnicity to determine what populations demonstrate the highest susceptibility to the disease. Nye County will rely on internal data as well as data gained from state databases.

### Protection of Vulnerable Populations

Nye County will continue to monitor and support the Nye County Sheriff's Office Jail, long-term, skilled nursing and assisted living facilities, and other vulnerable populations located throughout the County. Nye County has actively provided testing kits, PPE, and other associated prevention resource materials to these populations. Nye County has proactively assisted homebound and homeless residents with receiving vaccinations.

### Testing and Contact Tracing Efforts

Since the onset of the pandemic, Nye County has been a frontrunner in administering COVID tests. More COVID tests (approximately 26,000) have been administered in Nye County than in any other rural county besides Elko.<sup>1</sup> This does not include Nye County residents who have tested outside of Nye County.

Our testing continues through private vendors by both appointment and a regularly scheduled drive-through center located in Pahrump. Additional testing is completed at the hospital, medical clinics, and doctor's offices. Nye County Department of Emergency Management regularly receives and distributes State supplied nasal-pharyngeal testing kits to the testing centers upon request.

Like most other Nevada Counties, Nye County's investigation and tracing resources were limited during the two significant spikes last summer and last November through January of this year. However, we have continued to expand our internal capacity and utilize state resources to assist in contact tracing and case investigation. Through our Public Information Officer, we have notified individuals about the COVID-Trace app. Our testing and contact efforts will continue moving forward.

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<sup>1</sup> NV Health Response [Dashboard](#) as of 4/13/2021

## Hospital Capacity Management

Though strained during the spikes, our hospital capacity in Nye County was never exceeded. Desert View Hospital remains in close communication with our Department of Emergency Management to ensure that hospital capacity remains adequate. The hospital is equipped with ventilators, though none are currently in use for COVID patients. Desert View reports staffing models that are adequate for provided services and they continue to screen their staff daily before entering the facility. They have further limited access of non-patients and visitors into the hospital. Medications and treatments remain unremarkable with most patients released to self-quarantine at home. Desert View reports that PPE supplies are adequate and without issue.

## Status of PPE

Nye County Department of Emergency Management continues to manage a sufficient supply of PPE with prioritization to emergency responders, medical providers, testing facilities, long-term, skilled and assisted living facilities, government operations, and target hot spots.

## Mitigation Measures

### Occupancy restrictions for public and private gatherings, events, and activities.

Nye County is prepared to fully reopen without COVID occupancy restrictions for public and private gatherings, events, and activities. Nye County will continue to monitor daily positive case counts and implement or adjust requirements as needed.

### Large event gatherings and plan approval process.

Nye County currently requires a license for all actual or reasonably anticipated assemblies of 1000 or more individuals. Licensees are required to provide:

- A minimum number of law enforcement officers employed at the licensee's expense.
- Adequate drinking water.
- An adequate sewage system.
- Adequate food supplies.
- Adequate toilet facilities.
- Adequate medical facilities, including doctors and supplies.
- A minimum amount of parking space for vehicles.
- Adequate camping facilities.
- Indemnity or performance bonds.
- Adequate fire protection at the licensee's expense.
- Financial statements.
- A communication system.
- Posting of an indemnity and/or performance bond.
- Other conditions determined by the board to be necessary to protect the health, welfare and property of local residents and persons attending the assembly.<sup>2</sup>

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<sup>2</sup> Nye County Code 5.16.050

These provisions will remain in effect and Nye County will consider requiring additional COVID mitigation steps if our case positivity rates begin to spike.

#### Youth and adult recreational sports.

Nye County youth and adults are excited and anxious to resume recreational sports. Nye County is prepared to fully resume these activities without restrictions other than the outdoor assembly requirements outlined above. Nye County will continue to monitor daily positive case counts and implement or adjust requirements as needed.

#### Industry-specific guidance.

Nye County will continue to publish and distribute any industry-specific guidance from the state for the benefit of interested business owners. Nye County will continue to monitor daily positive case counts and implement or adjust requirements as needed.

#### General social distancing, PPE, and hygiene requirements for businesses and public activities

On April 13, Governor Sisolak stated that control over social distancing requirements would transition to county control beginning May 1, 2021. Nye County is prepared to allow local business determine which recommended social distancing and hygiene requirements will meet their needs and those of the community. Nye County will continue to monitor daily positive case counts and implement or adjust requirements as needed.

#### Public sector work plans to support in-person or work-from-home services.

The Nye County Manager reopened all county offices that were fully and partially closed to the public on March 15, 2021. Additionally, almost all telecommuting arrangements were rescinded and most county staff are back in their respective offices. There have been no reported outbreaks or spikes in COVID cases after a month of increased activity and proximity between staff and members of the public. Nye County will continue to monitor daily positive case counts and implement or adjust requirements as needed.

The Nye County School District (NCSD) Superintendent reported that most of the student population and staff are attending class in person. Upper grade levels except in northern schools are still on a hybrid (both in-class and remote learning) system. NCSD will continue to monitor daily positive case counts and implement or adjust requirements as needed.

## Enforcement Measures

#### Regional enforcement partnership and coordination structure.

Nye County continues to embrace a joint communication and enforcement model which includes the Nye County Sheriff's Office, Nye County Emergency Management, Nye County Code Compliance, the Nye County District Attorney's Office, Nye County Public Information Office, Nye County Workplace Safety & Training Officer, and Nevada OSHA.

Nye County refers all alleged violations and concerns to Nevada State OSHA. Nye County established a dedicated COVID Hotline (775-751-6311) for residents to report their concerns. Since August 14, 2020, we have received approximately 50 calls which have all been referred to Nevada State OSHA. Businesses

which have been reported include bars, fitness centers, RV parks, grocery stores, firearms facilities and department stores.

In addition to referring cases to OSHA, County officials also respond to calls themselves. Nye County has responded to or observed approximately 18 businesses. These include bars, restaurants, department stores, grocery stores, schools, and horse racing facilities. County officials have also intervened or investigated advertised events. Nye County officials have also responded to alleged violations within county government by working directly with Nevada State OSHA to address allegations that public officials and employees were not complying with the Governor's Directives.

Of the cases observed by or reported to Nye County officials, we have seen an approximately 90% compliance rate. Most businesses in Nye County are willing to comply with the Governor's Directives to avoid being closed, fined, or contributing to the pandemic. One notable exception was a political event held at a private business a few months ago. The business owner was fined by OSHA, the county is unaware if the fine was paid.

Because compliance rates have been so high, the County has had to take very few enforcement actions. In all instances, a simple warning was sufficient to rectify any noncompliance. To date, it has not been necessary to issue any fines or close any businesses due to noncompliance.

## Public Information

### Campaigns to promote public health measures.

Throughout the pandemic, Nye County has relied on its Public Information Officer to disseminate information, updates, resources, data, and other materials to citizens and stakeholders. Nye County keeps our residents informed through our [COVID information website](#), various social media platforms, newspaper articles, and through our COVID information telephone hotline (775-751-4333) for residents who have difficulty with computers. Nye County recently upgraded two existing signs to allow for more visible and robust electronic messaging. Through these media we have been able to keep citizens informed and promote public health measures.

### Campaigns to promote and inform on vaccination efforts.

As noted above, Nye County ranks third among the rural counties for the most vaccines administered (approximately 18,000). Our successful vaccination program was not happenstance. Through the efforts of our Department of Emergency Management, Public Information Officer, local hospital and others we have utilized the various media listed above to coordinate multiple vaccination pods. Though vaccine quantities were sparse initially, Nye County developed a highly efficient distribution infrastructure that allowed us to quickly and effectively schedule and vaccinate our citizens in a relatively short amount of time. This infrastructure remains in place and will continue as long as necessary to ensure that all those who wish to be vaccinated have the opportunity to do so.

## Resource Needs

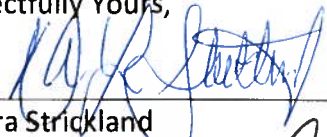
### Public health, enforcement, or emergency management needs of the county.

Nye County has no immediate resource needs, however our residents are growing weary of continual mandates and directives without an end in sight. The greatest need for Nye County is a set of benchmarks or thresholds to aim towards to return to normalcy. If, for example, the mask mandate were removed

once a particular county obtains 70% vaccination rate or the test positivity rate remains below 5% for three weeks, it would go a long way to motivate our residents to continue adhering to State directions.

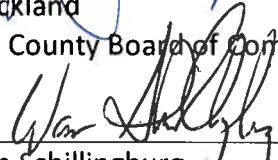
In summary, Nye County is ready and able to assume local control of managing the pandemic within our boundaries. We are grateful for the resources and assistance provided by the State over the last thirteen months and look forward to our continued partnership in other matters.

Respectfully Yours,



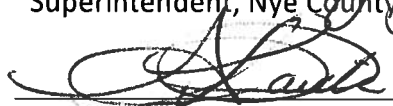
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Debra Strickland  
Chair, Nye County Board of Commissioners



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Dr. Warren Schillingburg  
Superintendent, Nye County School District



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Susan Davila  
Chief Executive Officer, Desert View Hospital