NEVADA ROADMAP TO RECOVERY: DIRECTIVE 044 UPDATES

To achieve the goal of reopening business capacity to 100 percent in all counties by June 1, Governor Sisolak issued Directive 044 on April 19, 2021. As outlined in the Nevada Roadmap to Recovery, COVID-19 mitigation measures will begin transferring to local authority starting May 1 and each Nevada county has been working with the COVID-19 Mitigation and Management Task Force ("Task Force") to finalize plans for this transition.

As a result of this transition to local authority, each county will be able to make decisions based on what is best for their communities while considering transmission of the virus, vaccination, testing and other infrastructure needs specific to their communities. Below is a summary of the major changes from Directive 044 that will be happening May 1 and June 1.

MAY 1, 2021

LOCAL PLANS: All counties will be able to set their own mitigation measures, including restrictions on businesses and public activities, by approving their COVID-19 Local Mitigation and Enforcement Plan ("Local Plan") as set forth in Directive 041. Local Plans may be in effect no earlier than May 1. Directive 044 makes clear that if any provision of a Local Plan adopted by a county conflicts with a required Statewide Mitigation Measure, such as mandated face coverings per Directive 024, that provision is void.

SOCIAL DISTANCING: As of May 1, 2021, the State Emergency Directives will no longer include social distancing and sanitation guidelines, and counties/school districts will have the authority to include social distancing measures within their mitigation plans. Public health experts continue to recommend that Nevadans practice safe social distancing.

LARGE GATHERINGS & EVENTS: Large gathering or event in excess of 250 attendees between May 1 and May 31 must submit to the county where the event is to take place pursuant to the procedures set forth in that county’s Local Plan and must follow all mitigation measures and social distancing requirements established by that county. Large Gathering Plans approved by the Nevada Department of Business & Industry (B&I) prior to April 19, 2021 (the date of Directive 041) may still take place, but organizers may work with the respective county officials on approval of a less restrictive event if that county’s Local Plan allows for such.

An event organizer may submit a Large Gathering Plan to B&I through April 30, 2021, for an event to take place between May 1 – May 31, 2021, but such plans must follow all social distancing and mitigation measures required by the county where the event is to take place.

SCHOOLS: Decisions related to social distancing, sanitation protocols, capacity limits, school transportation, and other mitigation measures will be delegated to county school districts, charter school sponsors, and private school leaders effective May 1. Parents and students should communicate with their schools and county school districts / charter school sponsors to understand what measures and protocols will be in place for the remainder of the school year.
**Gaming:** Mitigation measures for gaming properties, including capacity limitations for gaming areas, will be delegated to the Gaming Control Board effective May 1. Other businesses located within a gaming property will be subject to the applicable county’s capacity and other mitigation measures applicable to that type of business, per the approved Local Mitigation and Enforcement Plan. For example, a retail clothing store located within a gaming property shall follow the mitigation measures for retail stores that are set forth in the county’s plan.

**June 1, 2021**

**Reopening:** Effective June 1, all remaining State mitigation measures, with the exception of the mask mandate (see below), will terminate leaving no State restrictions in place that would prevent 100 percent reopening of businesses and activities.

Counties will have continued authority to set their own mitigation measures based on the needs of their communities, continued transmission of the virus, vaccination, testing, etc. Following June 1, if counties would like to amend their plans, they will no longer be required to go through the approval process outlined in Directive 041.

**Large Gatherings & Events:** The State of Nevada (Department of Business and Industry) will no longer review and approve Large Gathering Plans for events that will take place on June 1 or later. The approval process for large gatherings or events will be determined by the counties pursuant to their respective Local Plans for events taking place on or after June 1. Counties will have the ability to determine the capacity limits, social distancing requirements, mitigation measures and other protocols required for a large event.

**Open Meeting Law:** The suspensions to certain provision of Nevada’s Open Meeting Law set forth in Directive 006 will terminate effective June 1. As such, public meetings will be opened back to the public pursuant to Nevada law and each counties’ social distancing and mitigation measures set forth in their Local Plan.

**Youth & Adult Sports:** Effective June 1, the State’s Directives related to youth and adult sports will terminate. State restrictions categorizing sports based on contact level and associated risk with corresponding rules for each will no longer be in effect. However, athletes, coaches, organizations and parents should review the Local Plan in their county for any locally required restrictions, mitigation measures, social distancing requirements, or other protocols necessary to participate in organized sports.

**Statewide Mask Requirement:**

The mask and face covering requirements set forth in Directive 024 and Section 4 of Directive 028 (schools) will continue to be a statewide standard. Counties do not have authority to pass resolutions or create Local Plans that attempt to override this requirement. This measure will remain in place to protect the health and safety of Nevadans and help get the state to a full reopening.