



**NEVADA  
HEALTH  
RESPONSE**

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**COVID-19 Press Bulletin for March 24, 2022**

Carson City, NV — Today, the Nevada National Guard discussed their role in the State's COVID-19 response on a teleconference with members of the media. The Nevada National Guard's mission in support of the State's COVID-19 response is coming to a close on April 1, 2022, exactly two years after it began.

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.

**SUMMARY:**

The Nevada National Guard's mission in support of the State's COVID-19 response is coming to a close April 1, 2022, exactly two years after it began. At the peak in April 2020, 1,139 members of the Nevada Guard were on orders to assist the State, the largest domestic emergency response in Nevada Guard history. It eventually became the lengthiest state activation in history with members of the Nevada Guard remaining on orders for more than 700 days. In total, more than 1,400 Nevada Guardsmen and women supported Nevada's COVID-19 response.

In all, Nevada Guardsmen and women directly administered 831,227 COVID-19 tests and 818,661 vaccinations. Nevada Guard personnel supported a larger number of test and vaccination locations other than direct administration, primarily with traffic control and administrative paperwork at 85 mobile and stationary sites. Altogether, Nevada Guard personnel supported efforts to test 2.5 million Nevadans and vaccinate an additional 2.9 million. Sixty-two of the sites were mobile efforts in urban, rural and tribal locations around the state.

The activation fundamentally changed much of the Nevada Guard's role with the reorganization of the Division of Emergency Management (DEM) and Department of Health and Human Services falling under the Nevada Office of the Military during the early months of the pandemic. In 2021, the State Legislature permanently moved DEM under the state Office of the Military.

The Nevada Guard also proved vital for state logistics in transporting personal protective equipment, moving nearly four million pounds of PPE in the state and supporting seven warehouse and distribution centers. Additionally, the Guard supported five food distribution sites, ensuring Nevadans remained fed during the pandemic. The Guard also assisted alternate care facilities with sanitization to protect our most vulnerable residents against the spread of the pandemic.

This was an unprecedented activation with members of the Nevada Guard supporting myriad missions for the state: testing, vaccination, traffic control, PPE and warehouse distribution, bilingual contact tracing, meal delivery, compliance operations, alternate care site sanitization, data processing, call centers, tribal community support, incident management and planning, laboratory support, site security and medical screening.

Throughout this activation, the Nevada Guard has worked extensively with state, county and local agencies to help navigate the pandemic. Since the peak of the activation in April 2020, the Guard has incrementally lowered total personnel conducting COVID-19 operations in a way to best prepare local jurisdictions for their ongoing testing, vaccination and contact tracing efforts. Throughout this time, the Guard has also increased activation efforts when needed, especially during the vaccination roll out in the winter of 2020-2021. The Nevada Guard remains ready and able to assist the residents of our state when called upon.

Guardsmen and women supported the state all while they also conducted seven federal overseas deployments in addition to civil unrest response in Nevada and last year at the U.S. Capitol. The Nevada Guard has never been busier or more visible than it has the past two years.

Given their status as residents in the community, Nevada Guardsmen and women were well positioned to assist. The Nevada Guard serves as a federally funded, state

managed and locally executed best practice. Through protest, polarization and pandemic, the Nevada Guard proved its promise as a positive example of unity and dedication to our nation.

These Guardsmen included people like Specialist Jermaine Longmire, who, after losing his job working at a casino in Reno, volunteered to serve, and even was seen at various mobile testing sites, taking an initiative to learn Paiute and Shoshone greetings to speak with tribal members. It also included those who served outside their role in the Nevada Guard. Captain Sparkle Mccuiston was one of the first Nevada Guardswomen to enter the fight against COVID-19. Mccuiston responded in early March of 2020 working her civilian job as an infectious disease nurse in Las Vegas. More than 240 Nevada Guard members work full-time as medical professionals, whether as doctors, nurses, dental technicians or in other fields.

So many in the state deserve credit for the past two years: medical professionals, first responders, educators, retail workers, other front-line workers, and, of course, soldiers, airmen and civilians in the Nevada Guard. They've provided a shining example and a path through this turbulent two years. The Nevada Guard is always ready, always there as neighbors helping neighbors in our great state.

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