



# WASHOE COUNTY

Integrity Communication Service

[www.washoecounty.us](http://www.washoecounty.us)

## STAFF REPORT

BOARD MEETING DATE: April 8, 2021

**DATE:** March 31, 2021

**TO:** Board of County Commissioners

**FROM:** Dave Solaro, Arch., P.E., Assistant County Manager  
Community Services Department, 328-3600, [dsolaro@washoecounty.us](mailto:dsolaro@washoecounty.us)

**THROUGH:** Eric Brown, County Manager

**SUBJECT:** Recommendation and possible action to approve the Washoe County COVID-19 Local Mitigation and Enforcement Plan ("the Plan"), and direction to staff to submit the Plan to the COVID-19 Mitigation and Management Task Force ("Task Force") for approval as the final Local Plan for Washoe County as required by the Governor's Declaration of Emergency, Directive 041 ("the Directive"). The Plan was developed as required by the Directive which delegated to the Counties the duty and authority to develop a COVID-19 Local Mitigation and Enforcement Plan to be submitted to the Task Force for approval prior to the Governor delegating management of mitigation measures and transitioning authority to local control.

As required by the Directive the County consulted, collaborated with, and has received the endorsement of the Plan from the County Health Officer Kevin Dick, the Washoe County School District Superintendent, local and regional hospitals, the Nevada Hospital Association, and the City Managers of Reno and Sparks in creating the Plan. The proposed Plan addresses the topics required by the Directive including mitigation measures for:

- Public Gatherings and events, including a process for review and approval of large gathering plans;
- Retail businesses and indoor malls;
- Community/recreational centers, including public pools;
- Food and beverage establishments such as bars, wineries, distilleries, and breweries;
- Places of worship;
- Gyms, fitness studios, yoga studios, dance studios, martial arts, and similar establishments;
- Spas, massage, hair salons and barber shops, nail salon, body art and piercing and similar establishments;
- Arcades, racetracks, bowling alleys, mini-golf, pool halls, theme parks, and similar activities; and,
- Youth and adult recreational sports.

AGENDA ITEM # \_\_\_\_\_

The Plan also includes enforcement measures and procedures for ensuring compliance with mitigation measures; a strategy for ensuring adequate monitoring of COVID-19; and public information campaigns to promote public health measures and vaccination efforts. Unless the Task Force returns the Plan for further revision, this will be the final Local Plan. (All Commission Districts.) FOR POSSIBLE ACTION.

### **SUMMARY**

The Washoe County Board of County Commissioner will review and possibly approve a local authority mitigation and enforcement plan developed by a local jurisdiction work group. The proposed plan has been developed utilizing steps outlined in the State of Nevada Governor's Declaration of Emergency, Directive 041, and is in compliance with that directive for action by the Board of County Commissioners.

Washoe County Strategic Objective supported by this item: Stewardship of our community.

### **PREVIOUS ACTION**

January 4, 2021 the Interlocal Agreement for Incident Command and Coordinated Response to COVID-19 was updated to remove Aaron Kenneston as Incident Commander to be replaced by David Solaro, Assistant County Manager for Washoe County. The Interlocal was agreed to by the City of Reno, City of Sparks, Washoe County and the Washoe County Health District.

May 8, 2020 the Interlocal Agreement for Incident Command and Coordinated Response to COVID-19 was updated to remove Sam Hicks as Incident Commander to be replaced by Aaron Kenneston, Washoe County Emergency Manager. The Interlocal was agreed to by the City of Reno, City of Sparks, Washoe County and the Washoe County Health District.

March 31, 2020 the Board of County Commissioners accepted and ratified an Interlocal Agreement for Incident Command and Coordinated Response to COVID-19 delegating certain authority and responsibility for operational control and management only of the COVID 19 response from Washoe County, the City of Reno, City of Sparks and the Washoe County Health District to Incident Commander Sam Hicks, describes and limits the duties and responsibilities of the Incident Commander, and provides for the negotiation of a cost sharing agreement between the Parties.

### **BACKGROUND**

On February 14<sup>th</sup>, Governor Sisolak unveiled [\*Nevada's Roadmap to Recovery\*](#), which provided a plan to reduce current statewide COVID-19 mitigation measures and transition certain mitigation measures to the local authority. Per the [\*Governor's Emergency Directive 037\*](#), this will occur in a phased approach with the transition to local authority scheduled to occur on May 1, 2021

The following essential baseline mitigation measures will remain in place and continue to be enforced by the State, even after the May 1, 2021 transfer of authority occurs:

- Statewide mask requirements as outlined in [Directive 024](#).
- Social distancing and hygiene considerations as outlined in [Directive 021](#).
- School reopening and operation requirements as outlined in Directives [022](#), [028](#), and [038](#).
- Crisis Standards of Care as outlined in [Directive 011](#).
- Additionally, industries regulated by the state, whether through professional licensing boards covered in Title 54 of the Nevada Revised Statutes, through state agencies, or through independent regulatory bodies such as the Gaming Control Board, will continue to follow the statewide baseline standards for COVID-19 mitigation measures and any mitigation measures promulgated by their respective regulatory bodies.

In order to receive the delegation of authority regarding specific local mitigation measures on May 1, Washoe County must develop a COVID-19 Local Mitigation and Enforcement Plan that aligns with the template provided by the State and meets the requirements in the following approval and review process:

- **STEP 1** (March 15): The State Task Force began conducting an in-progress review of each county's preliminary Plan in order to provide feedback and recommendations during a public meeting. *David Solaro, Washoe County Assistant Manager and Regional IMT Incident Commander represented Washoe County in this meeting which was held on March 17<sup>th</sup>.*
- **STEP 2** (March 15-Mid-April): Within this timeframe, the Local Mitigation and Enforcement Plan should be finalized and MUST receive endorsement from the following entities:
  - Local Health District/Authority
  - Superintendent for the local school district
  - City Managers (only for those cities with population in excess of 100,000)
  - Nevada Hospital Association and/or Nevada Rural Hospital Association

Following receipt of these endorsements, the completed plan MUST be approved by a vote of the respective Board of County Commissioners.

- **STEP 3** (April 13-April 22): The State Task Force conducts a final review of each county's plan in order to provide feedback and recommendations during a public meeting. The Task Force will work with each county to schedule a presentation over the course of several Task Force meetings taking place on April 14, April 15, and April 22. *Washoe County Plan review is currently scheduled for April 15.*
- **STEP 4** (May 1): Counties that have participated in this process and have developed appropriate plans receive delegation of authority from the Governor.

## PROCESS

Following Governor Sisolak's announcement and Directive 041 which requires the coordination and endorsement of local government and hospital officials, by a regional working group assembled by the incident commander to develop the Local Mitigation and Enforcement Plan. The work group consists of the following individuals:

1. Kevin Dick, District Health Officer for the Washoe County Health District
2. Pete Etchart, Chief Operating Officer for the Washoe County School District
3. John Martini, Assistant City Manager for the City of Sparks
4. David Solaro, Assistant County Manager for Washoe County and Washoe County COVID-19 Incident Management Team (IMT) Incident Commander
5. Rebecca Venis, Director of Neighborhood Services at the City of Reno

The working group identified the following Guiding Principles and Objectives that would be utilized for plan development.

### **Guiding Principles**

- The health of Washoe County citizens and visitors is as important as the health of the local economy.
- The business community will make the best business decisions with appropriate high impact guidelines.
- Citizens and visitors can make their own personal decisions related to health risks within allowable guidelines.
- Oversight is necessary to ensure compliance with guidelines.
- Simplify where possible.

### **Objectives**

1. **Reduce the spread of COVID-19.** Positivity rate *below 5%* per the World Health Organization goal. Less than *100 new cases* per day.
2. **Partner with the Business Community to create standards that balance safety and economics.** Maintain compliance with safety guidelines. Consult with industry leaders to understand their priorities, needs, and thoughts.
3. **Deliver clear and consistent information to empower citizens and visitors to make informed decisions.** Provide accurate, consistent information to the citizens and visitors across all regional entities. Provide a clear understanding of risk while shopping, recreating, and being entertained in the community.

Before plan development took place, the working group hosted virtual meetings with industry leaders in the following business categories to better understand their priorities and needs.

- Restaurants and Bars, held on March 16th
- Public Gatherings and Events, held on March 18th
- Business and Retail, held on March 19th
- Large Venues, held on March 23rd

## HIGHLIGHTS OF THE PLAN

### EVENTS

- Both indoor and outdoor fixed seating events will not have a capacity limit as long as 6 feet of distancing is maintained between ticketed groups. Capacity for fixed seating must be 6 feet of distancing between attendee groups. Ticketed groups are groups of 8.
- Indoor events will maintain guidance of 6-foot social distance to be required and supported in the Event Plans. Event Plans need to address pinch points, restrooms, etc. Caps may be established based on the 6-foot social distancing requirement and the square footage.
- Outdoor events will maintain guidance of 6-foot social distance to be required and supported in the Event Plans. Event Plans need to address pinch points, restrooms, etc.
- Those anticipating more than 500 attendees will be required to submit a Large Gathering Covid-19 Preparedness & Safety Plan Certification Form as part of the event approval process to the Health District. Fewer than 500 will meet the requirements of the Large Gathering Covid-19 Preparedness & Safety Plan Certification Form but do not need approval.
- Facility operators may submit for pre-approval of the event space for most events (pre-approval up to a certain size group), which will allow for significant improvement in efficiency, planning & management. (example like dinner events, trade show).

### GENERAL BUSINESS

- There will no longer be a strict capacity limit if 6 feet of distancing is maintained between groups/individuals, may allow indoor and outdoor dining maintaining 6 feet of distancing between customers. If not possible or causes a hardship to monitor, limit to 50% capacity.
- No more than 8 patrons per table with social distancing requirements
  - Chairs/stools at tables must be 6 feet apart from next chair/stool cluster
  - Outdoor seating must be 6 feet between customer group –highly encourage outdoor seating.
- Patrons maybe served via bar or table service while in compliance with 6 feet of social distancing. Bars will provide a dedicated spot for ordering at the bar.
- Patrons may be served at bar tops if spaced 6 feet apart and bar-top parties should be limited to no more than 4 persons.
- Arcades/Pool Halls/Game rooms should open with the recommended cleaning guidelines.
- Locker rooms, hot tubs, saunas, steam rooms and spas may be open but must adhere to 6 feet of social distancing and mask-wearing.

## FUTURE OF THE PLAN

In addition to the Governor's three established criteria (average number of tests per day per 100,000 less than 100; case rate per 100,000 greater than 200; and case rate per 100,000 is greater than 50 and test positivity rate greater than 8%), the Washoe County Health District (WCHD) will monitor the COVID risk meter and other data to assess risk in our community to assist in our planning efforts. Based on consultation with the WCHD the Regional Incident Management Team will tighten or loosen the guidelines if there is a change in the indicators as noted in the table below. Changes will be reviewed and will receive the endorsement of the Washoe County Health District or Health Officer as applicable, Washoe County School District Superintendent, the City Managers of Reno and Sparks, and the Nevada Hospital Association.

16 and Older Vaccination Rates		Increasing Transmissions	
60% Vaccination **	75% Vaccination **	Red Meter	New Case Counts
If the COVID meter remains in the yellow or green for 2 weeks straight and vaccination has reached 60% (for ages 16 and older ) then social distance may shrink from 6 feet to 4 feet between parties indoors or enclosed spaces and 3 feet outdoors.	If the COVID meter remains in the yellow or green for 2 weeks straight and vaccination has reached 75% (for ages 16 and older) then all social distancing requirements can return to pre-COVID except for mask-wearing, which is still required.	If the COVID meter reaches orange, then the public and business community will be warned that if the COVID meter reaches red, on the Thursday night at 11:59 pm of the week the meter reaches red, the community will be required to revert to tighter restrictions.	If new case counts reach 625 per 100,000 over a 30-day period threshold level, then additional restrictions on businesses resume with initial focus on restaurants, bars, casinos, gyms, and large gatherings/events.

The COVID risk meter was created to synthesize data and information about COVID in our specific community and empower residents to make personal behavioral decisions with easy to use information. The meter uses data about COVID testing, new COVID cases, hospitalizations, and hospital capacity to assess the current state of COVID risk in the region. In addition to the COVID risk meter the City of Sparks entered into an agreement with the University of Nevada Reno to develop a model to predict increases or decreases of COVID within the wastewater. This is an additional metric to be monitored in the review of risk meter data. The final piece of information that will be used as a monitoring tool is simply the percentage of our population that has received the COVID 19 vaccine. As the population percentage increases our need for mitigation measures decreases. This has been captured in the monitoring data to inform future changes.

## FISCAL IMPACT

It is uncertain what the fiscal impact of this action will be for Washoe County.

## **RECOMMENDATION**

It is recommended the Board of County Commissioners approve the Washoe County COVID-19 Local Mitigation and Enforcement Plan (“the Plan”), and direction to staff to submit the Plan to the COVID-19 Mitigation and Management Task Force (“Task Force”) for approval as the final Local Plan for Washoe County as required by the Governor’s Declaration of Emergency, Directive 041 (“the Directive”). The Plan was developed as required by the Directive which delegated to the Counties the duty and authority to develop a COVID-19 Local Mitigation and Enforcement Plan to be submitted to the Task Force for approval prior to the Governor delegating management of mitigation measures and transitioning authority to local control.

Recommendation and possible action to approve the Washoe County COVID-19 Local Mitigation and Enforcement Plan (“the Plan”), and direction to staff to submit the Plan to the COVID-19 Mitigation and Management Task Force (“Task Force”) for approval as the final Local Plan for Washoe County as required by the Governor’s Declaration of Emergency, Directive 041 (“the Directive”). The Plan was developed as required by the Directive which delegated to the Counties the duty and authority to develop a COVID-19 Local Mitigation and Enforcement Plan to be submitted to the Task Force for approval prior to the Governor delegating management of mitigation measures and transitioning authority to local control.

As required by the Directive the County consulted, collaborated with, and has received the endorsement of the Plan from the County Health Officer Kevin Dick, the Washoe County School District Superintendent, local and regional hospitals, the Nevada Hospital Association, and the City Managers of Reno and Sparks in creating the Plan. The proposed Plan addresses the topics required by the Directive including mitigation measures for:

- Public Gatherings and events, including a process for review and approval of large gathering plans;
- Retail businesses and indoor malls;
- Community/recreational centers, including public pools;
- Food and beverage establishments such as bars, wineries, distilleries, and breweries;
- Places of worship;
- Gyms, fitness studios, yoga studios, dance studios, martial arts, and similar establishments;
- Spas, massage, hair salons and barber shops, nail salon, body art and piercing and similar establishments;
- Arcades, racetracks, bowling alleys, mini-golf, pool halls, theme parks, and similar activities; and,
- Youth and adult recreational sports.

The Plan also includes enforcement measures and procedures for ensuring compliance with mitigation measures; a strategy for ensuring adequate monitoring of COVID-19; and public information campaigns to promote public health measures and vaccination efforts. Unless the Task Force returns the Plan for further revision, this will be the final Local Plan.

## **POSSIBLE MOTION**

Should the Board agree with staff's recommendation, a possible motion would be: "Move to approve the Washoe County COVID-19 Local Mitigation and Enforcement Plan ("the Plan"), and direction to staff to submit the Plan to the COVID-19 Mitigation and Management Task Force ("Task Force") for approval as the final Local Plan for Washoe County as required by the Governor's Declaration of Emergency, Directive 041 ("the Directive"). The Plan was developed as required by the Directive which delegated to the Counties the duty and authority to develop a COVID-19 Local Mitigation and Enforcement Plan to be submitted to the Task Force for approval prior to the Governor delegating management of mitigation measures and transitioning authority to local control.

Recommendation and possible action to approve the Washoe County COVID-19 Local Mitigation and Enforcement Plan ("the Plan"), and direction to staff to submit the Plan to the COVID-19 Mitigation and Management Task Force ("Task Force") for approval as the final Local Plan for Washoe County as required by the Governor's Declaration of Emergency, Directive 041 ("the Directive"). The Plan was developed as required by the Directive which delegated to the Counties the duty and authority to develop a COVID-19 Local Mitigation and Enforcement Plan to be submitted to the Task Force for approval prior to the Governor delegating management of mitigation measures and transitioning authority to local control.

As required by the Directive the County consulted, collaborated with, and has received the endorsement of the Plan from the County Health Officer Kevin Dick, the Washoe County School District Superintendent, local and regional hospitals, the Nevada Hospital Association, and the City Managers of Reno and Sparks in creating the Plan. The proposed Plan addresses the topics required by the Directive including mitigation measures for:

- Public Gatherings and events, including a process for review and approval of large gathering plans;
- Retail businesses and indoor malls;
- Community/recreational centers, including public pools;
- Food and beverage establishments such as bars, wineries, distilleries, and breweries;
- Places of worship;
- Gyms, fitness studios, yoga studios, dance studios, martial arts, and similar establishments;
- Spas, massage, hair salons and barber shops, nail salon, body art and piercing and similar establishments;
- Arcades, racetracks, bowling alleys, mini-golf, pool halls, theme parks, and similar activities; and,
- Youth and adult recreational sports.

The Plan also includes enforcement measures and procedures for ensuring compliance with mitigation measures; a strategy for ensuring adequate monitoring of COVID-19; and public information campaigns to promote public health measures and vaccination efforts. Unless the Task Force returns the Plan for further revision, this will be the final Local Plan."