

WASHOE COUNTY LOCAL AUTHORITY PLAN

MAY 1, 2021



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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 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 when shopping, recreating, and being entertained in the community.

As defined in the Governor's Declaration of Emergency, Directive 041, at a minimum the following essential baseline mitigation measures will remain in place and continue to be enforced 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.

Additional Directives are not modified by this Local Authority Plan.

MONITORING

- **COVID-19 MEASURES AND INDICATORS TO BE MONITORED TO DETERMINE THE NATURE OF THE VIRUS WITHIN THE COMMUNITY**

Several measures will be used to monitor COVID-19 in the community. A regional group that included representatives from the cities and County, Reno-Sparks Chamber of Commerce, Truckee Meadows Regional Planning Agency, the Health District, medical professionals, and others have developed the Truckee Meadows COVID-19 Risk Meter, which will be used to assess the risk of COVID-19 transmission in the community prior to further easing of mitigation measures or to trigger tightening of mitigation measures. The risk meter is driven by a composite score of factors such as the demand for COVID-19 testing, test positivity rates, daily new cases, medical interventions, and hospital capacity. Triggers for easing of mitigation measures based on vaccination rates achieved must be accompanied by the risk meter remaining in the green (low) or yellow (moderate) risk levels for at least two weeks prior to easing mitigations. If the risk meter reaches orange (high) risk level, the community will be informed that if the risk meter hits red (very high) risk levels, that the community will need to draw back on opening capacities the following Thursday at 11:59 pm. In addition, the community will monitor the County Tracking system to measure of the number of new cases per hundred thousand over a 30-day period. If that level reaches 625 new cases per 100,000 population over 30 days, then the community will need to draw back on opening capacities the following Thursday at 11:59 pm with initial focus on restaurants, bars, casinos, gyms, and large gatherings/events.

The County will also monitor vaccination rates of the population aged 16 and older in Washoe County. Once that vaccination rate reaches 60%, and the risk meter criteria are met, the requirements for social distancing will be reduced from six feet to four feet indoors and from six feet to three feet outdoors. Once the vaccination rate for this population reaches 75%, then social distancing requirements may be eliminated, although masks will be required until any potential increase in COVID-19 transmission can be assessed.

- **PROTECTION OF VULNERABLE POPULATIONS**

Efforts and interventions in skilled nursing facilities

Skilled nursing facilities are licensed by the State of Nevada, and the State has the lead in working with the facility on outbreaks and for patients involved. The Health District is responsible for the disease investigation and contact tracing of staff that test positive for COVID-19. In addition to providing or facilitating access to test collection kits, the County has also provided PPE resources to these facilities.

The staff and residents of long-term care facilities were a prioritized essential workforce and population and have all been provided the opportunity to be vaccinated.

Efforts and Interventions in Correctional Facilities

A special housing unit has been created to house those inmates who test positive for COVID-19 to ensure limited exposure to the general population and be able to provide specific medical observation of any infected population.

The Washoe County Sheriff's Office will continue its practice of sanitizing the building and working in coordination with the Washoe County Health District and Epidemiologists Office to identify, trace and contact any individuals who have been exposed to COVID-19.

In addition, inmates at the County jail are also being vaccinated as they become eligible under the general population lane of the State Playbook. As of April 5, the entire population of inmates became eligible to receive vaccinations.

Efforts and Interventions in High-Risk Communities

The County has worked with regional partners to prevent outbreaks in the homeless population. A temporary men's shelter location has been established on Fourth Street, which provides for six-foot separation of the residents. The new Our Place women's and family shelter facility has also been opened and is providing housing in socially distanced settings for this population. Further expansion of capacity in additional buildings is underway.

Housing for homeless people that had COVID-19 symptoms or tested positive for COVID-19 has been provided through a contract with WellCare to provide beds and non-hospital care for this population. A contract with REMSA has been established for transport of these individuals, and the WellCare housing has also been utilized for homeless individuals being discharged from hospitals who are not yet released from isolation.

The community has worked together regarding encampments to attempt to avoid displacing this homeless population when possible in accordance with the CDC guidance. Handwashing stations, portable toilets, and clean-up efforts have been provided around these encampments. Some encampments are being addressed due to other public safety threats they posed. This activity is coordinated with partners and outreach to provide services and offer testing and housing.

The Reno Fire Department has coordinated with Volunteers of America to provide vaccinations to the homeless population utilizing the shelters. Plans are underway for a POD to provide vaccinations to those 16 and older at the Our Place women's and family shelters.

TESTING AND CONTACT TRACING EFFORTS

Testing Criteria:

Testing is currently open to individuals seeking testing whether they have symptoms or are asymptomatic. To ensure testing of priority populations, there is a mechanism to close testing to asymptomatic individuals if capacity for testing all individuals is exceeded. In this case, testing is prioritized for symptomatic individuals, case contacts, and priority populations of first responders, healthcare workers, staff of long-term care and assisted living facilities, and RTC drivers.

Testing is scheduled through a call center or online. Testing is provided at no charge to the individual. The staff conducts the scheduling, provides the lab paperwork and labeling for the testing and provides the follow-up reporting of lab results. The call center hours are 6:30 am to 7 pm, seven days per week.

Testing Capacity:

The Washoe County Health District provides drive-through testing at the Point of Screening and Testing (POST) located at the Reno-Sparks Livestock Events Center. The Washoe County POST has a capacity of up to 900 individuals per day. Additionally, our community has testing available through the healthcare system and local pharmacies.

Currently the demand for testing is low and the POST is testing three days per week and satisfying demand at approximately 100 tests per day.

Contact Tracing:

Positive cases are typically contacted within one hour of receipt of lab results to provide their results, instruct them to self-isolate and to provide them with an informational package of materials for their use and to share with their employer and close contacts.

Washoe County maintains the ability to conduct disease investigations to identify close contacts and establish ongoing contact within 24 hours for 99% of cases identified. Contact tracing capacity within Washoe County is sufficient for 100 new cases per day with backup plans to deal with surges in excess of that amount.

Additional staff has been trained and provided to assist the Washoe County School District in excluding close contacts to COVID-positive students and staff. The additional staff will be available through the current school year.

- **HOSPITAL CAPACITY MANAGEMENT**

Capacity of the Washoe County hospitals remains good, and the Nevada Hospital Association (NHA) provides reporting of bed and ventilator capacity as well as the number of COVID-19 patients, and their ICU utilization, and ventilator use. The NHA data is incorporated in the Truckee Meadows Risk Meter, which is part of the monitoring strategy that Washoe County will utilize. The risk meter includes two indicators related to hospital capacity management: medical interventions due to COVID-19, and hospital capacity. The medical interventions due to COVID-19 indicator assesses the number of hospitalizations due to COVID-19 and ICU bed use due to COVID-19. The hospital capacity indicator assesses total hospital bed use and total ICU bed use in Washoe County. By assessing hospital capacity in conjunction with demand for testing, test positivity rates, new daily case counts, and hospital burden of COVID-19 patients, the meter is able to assess risk appropriately by allowing higher levels of hospital utilization for other healthcare needs (as is more standard for our healthcare system) when the levels of COVID-19 cases, transmission, and hospitalizations remain low.

STATUS OF PPE AND OTHER MATERIALS NEEDED

Status of Regional PPE on-hand:

The Washoe County region purchased an approximately 4-month stockpile of PPE with CARES funding in late November/December 2020. Requests for PPE are supplied through our regional Incident Management structure and utilize the following priority for disbursement.

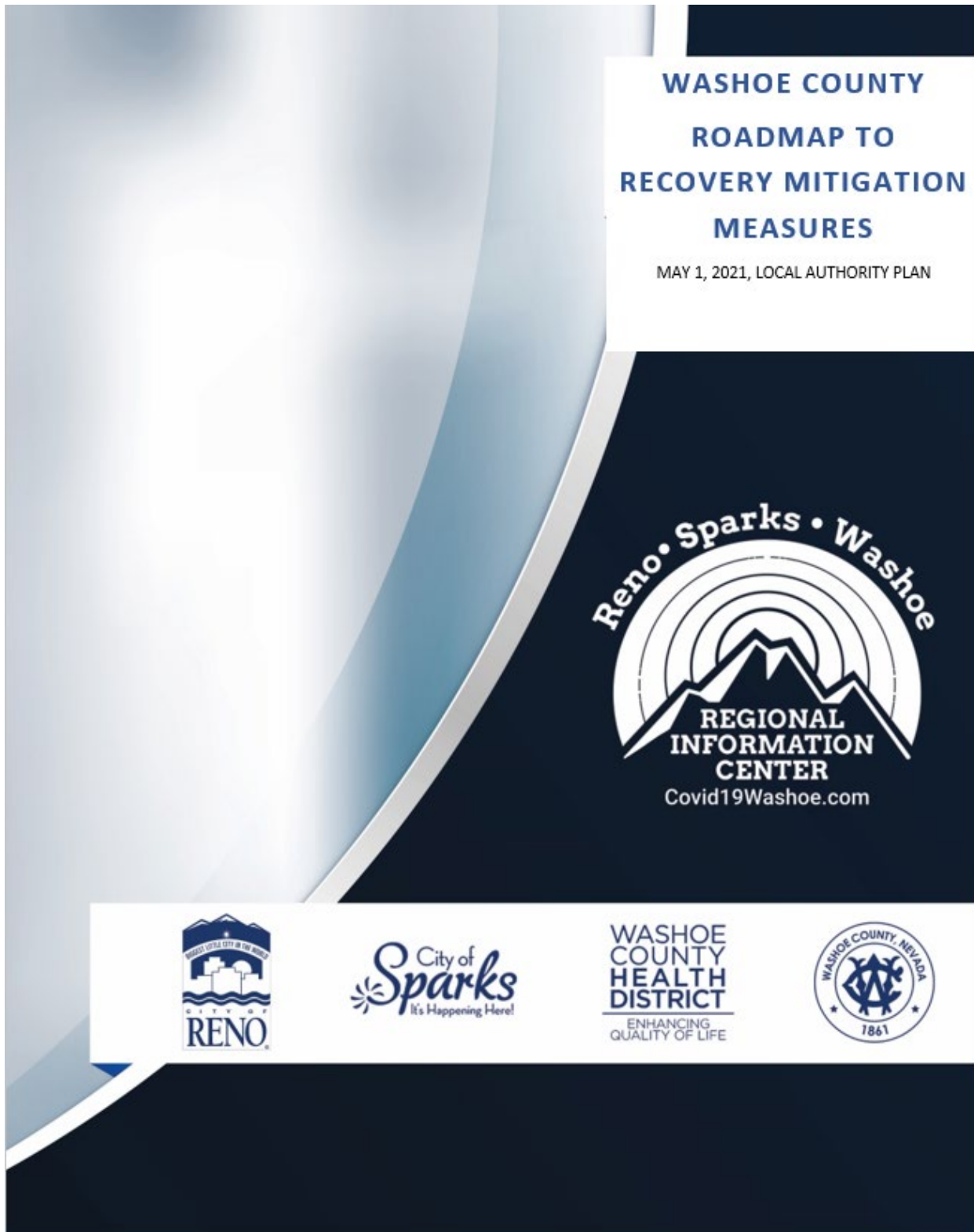
Distribution Priorities:

Should multiple competing requests for PPE come through to the region, the priority for distribution would be based on emergent need. For instance:

1. COVID-Positive Facility
2. Hospitals and First Responders (LE/EMS/FIRE)
3. Urgent Care
4. Secondary medical facilities such as rehabilitation facilities

MITIGATION MEASURES

- Refer to the attached **WC-Mitigation Guidelines – Local Authority May 1-2021** document.



ENFORCEMENT MEASURES

The following procedures will remain in effect for the successful enforcement of directives and regulations within all of Washoe County. This process has worked well for all jurisdictions over the past six months, as well as the coordination with Business and Industry for training and joint inspections. In addition to complaint-based enforcement actions, the local jurisdictions will continue to perform random business and event inspections for continued local compliance until 75% of our population is vaccinated.

Complaint is assigned to a business license compliance officer or code enforcement officer (referred to as assigned staff member below) as soon as possible.

- Complaints will be given priority for enforcement actions.
- Random compliance checks will also be initiated within each jurisdiction during customary business hours, on nights and weekends.

Assigned staff member visits the business location within 24 hours of the complaint and inspects for compliance with guidelines.

- If the business is open during the site visit, the assigned staff member makes contact with owner/manager to discuss inspection.
- If the business is non-compliant with guidelines, the assigned staff member reviews the guidance requirements with the owner/manager and informs them that a re-inspection will occur within 24 hours.
- If the business is compliant the assigned staff member documents the compliance and reports on the weekly enforcement tracking log and closes the case.
- If the business is not open during the site visit, the assigned staff member will make attempts to contact the owner. The assigned staff member visits within 24 hours during normal business hours to complete the initial inspection and discussion with the manager/owner.

Within 24 hours of finding the business is non-compliant; the assigned staff member will revisit.

- If the business continues to be non-compliant, the assigned staff member will issue a **Notice to Comply** and provides the owner/manager with instructions on compliance. The business is given 24 hours to comply.
- If the business is determined to be compliant with guidelines, the assigned staff member documents the compliance and reports on the weekly enforcement tracking log and closes the case.

Within 24 hours of issuing the notice to comply, the assigned staff member will revisit.

- If the business continues to be non-compliant, enforcement actions will commence to include issuing citations, Notice of Violations, and if necessary, pursue the applicable **Revocation Process** of the license process.

Enforcement Notes

- Any of the steps above may be skipped in any circumstance where the site visit demonstrates a clear and present and severe danger to the health and safety of the public or employees of the business.
- Assigned staff members may also initiate the enforcement process if they are visiting a complaint-driven site and see non-compliance at adjoining/nearby businesses.

PUBLIC INFORMATION

In March 2020, in response to the COVID-19 pandemic, the Washoe County Regional Information Center (Washoe County RIC) was established. The Washoe County RIC includes communications professionals representing the Washoe County Health District, Washoe County, City of Reno, and the City of Sparks and operates with the following objectives in mind:

- A. Ensure that all residents of Washoe County, including at-risk populations, have access to critical pandemic safety information they need to make well-informed decisions.
- B. Build community trust in the Washoe County COVID-19 response efforts and the regional entities involved in that effort with proactive outreach.
- C. Ensure access to timely and accurate information regarding the safety of COVID-19 vaccinations, distribution and allocation plans, and vaccine availability to all residents within Washoe County including at-risk populations and those with linguistic, fiscal, and cultural barriers.
- D. Facilitate communications resources among government entities, health partners, media and regional stakeholders.

The Washoe County RIC meets twice weekly and has developed a number of communications platforms specific to COVID-19 and vaccine outreach:

- www.covid19washoe.com and www.covid19washoevaccine.com: Primary regional information websites for COVID-19 and vaccine data, also available in Spanish .
- [@Covid19Washoe](#): Primary COVID-19 social media account (Twitter)
- Media Briefings: Virtual media briefings for COVID-19 and vaccine updates twice a week
- Daily [media updates](#) posted to www.covid19washoe.com and the [@COVID19Washoe Twitter](#) account
- Email List: More than 28,500 residents have signed up for updates on COVID-19 and vaccines.
- Media Partnerships: English and Spanish partnerships with radio and TV stations, including Town Halls for critical COVID-19 updates and vaccine information
- Partner Platforms: include more than 165k followers on social media platforms.

In August of 2020, the Washoe County RIC contracted with [KPS3](#), [BVK](#) and [IC Media Strategies](#) to implement and manage a comprehensive community engagement campaign in both English and Spanish to promote safe COVID-19 social distancing practices. The [Mask On Move On](#) campaign, which ran through February 2021, garnered over 30 million campaign impressions across multiple media platforms.

- www.maskonmoveon.com : Primary campaign website in English
- www.seguiradelantenv.com: Primary campaign website in Spanish
- [@maskonmoveon Facebook](#): English Facebook page
- [@pondamosdenuestraparte Facebook](#): Spanish Facebook page
- [@maskonmoveon Instagram](#): English Instagram page
- [@seguiradelantenv Instagram](#): Spanish Instagram page

Effective March 15, 2021, the Washoe County RIC has signed an additional contract with KPS3 and IC Media Strategies to continue the campaign with the additional focus on vaccine education and outreach. The campaign will run March 15, 2021 – July 15, 2021 and will continue to support and complement the platforms identified above through the Washoe County RIC COVID-19 efforts.

RESOURCE NEEDS

- **PUBLIC HEALTH, ENFORCEMENT, OR EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT NEEDS OF THE COUNTY**

Washoe County continues to need a steady and increasing supply of vaccine and the continued deployment of the Nevada National Guard who support the Washoe County testing, disease investigation, and vaccination efforts. State assistance with securing and retaining federal vaccinator and FEMA personnel to support the vaccination efforts will also benefit the County.