



WASHOE COUNTY

Integrity Communication Service

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STAFF REPORT

BOARD MEETING DATE: May 3, 2021

DATE: April 26, 2021

TO: Board of County Commissioners

FROM: Dave Solaro, Arch., P.E., Assistant County Manager
Community Services Department, 328-3600, 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 an endorsed local authority mitigation and enforcement plan developed with input from the local jurisdiction work group 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.

At the Board meeting held April 13, 2021 the board gave direction to amend the proposed endorsed plan to include the social distancing language as described in Directive 044 from the Governor's Office. This had the effect of loosing the endorsement of the City of Reno, the Washoe County School District, and the Washoe County Health Officer.

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

PREVIOUS ACTION

April 13, 2021 The Board of County Commissioners gave direction to staff related to the proposed Washoe County COVID-19 Local Mitigation and Enforcement Plan ("the Plan"), for approval as the final Local Plan for Washoe County as required by the Governor's Declaration of Emergency, Directive 041 ("the Directive") and authorized submission to the State COVID Task Force.

April 8, 2021 The Board of County Commissioners gave direction to staff related to the proposed Washoe County COVID-19 Local Mitigation and Enforcement Plan ("the Plan"), for approval as the final Local Plan for Washoe County as required by the Governor's Declaration of Emergency, Directive 041 ("the Directive") and requested a Special Meeting for April 14, 2021 to review and possibly approve the plan.

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 14th, 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 17th.*
- **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.
- **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

During the Board meeting on April 8, 2021 the board directed the following items be revised in the plan and endorsements sought prior to a Board meeting to be scheduled on April 20, 2021:

- Allow 10 people to a group in restaurants and event settings.
- Eliminate social distance minimums for outdoor events.
- Private gatherings are un-enforceable, so they should not be addressed in the plan.
- Masks will not be required during exercise, such as working out at a gym or athletic activities.
- Vaccination rate of 50 percent to lessen current restrictions (for example, to move from 6 feet of distancing to 3 feet indoors)
- Remove 75 percent vaccination rate as a trigger to move to full pre-COVID operations. Full reopening would depend on hospitalization rates instead. Metrics to be brought to the board every two weeks for review.

At the April 20th BCC meeting the Board adopted a version of the endorsed plan presented to them. The Board however provided direction to implement changes to social distancing to be consistent with the Directive 044 which was published during the board meeting. This direction caused three entities to withdraw their endorsement of the plan. This board meeting is an effort to provide an endorsed plan to the Governor for local authority during the month of May 2021.

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.

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- Gyms, fitness studios, yoga studios, dance studios, martial arts, and similar establishments;
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- 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.

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