

Proposed Washoe County COVID-19 Local Authority Mitigation and Enforcement Plan

(May 1, 2021 plan)



What is Local Authority?

Local Authority does NOT include:

- Mask wearing requirements.
- Social distancing and hygiene requirements.
- Directives specific to schools.
- Oversight specific to entities governed by State Boards.

Local Authority beginning on May 1, 2021 will allow Washoe County to:

- Define occupancy limits.
- Define local event gathering limits consistently across our Truckee Meadows area.
- Define public health restrictions related to arcades, table games, seating densities, hot tub use, etc.

**Regional
Working
Group
established
by the
Incident
Management
Team**

- Dave Solaro – Assistant County Manager, Washoe County (Incident Commander, IMT)
- Kevin Dick – Washoe County District Health Officer
- Pete Etchart – Washoe County School District
- John Martini – Assistant City Manager, City of Sparks
- Rebecca Venis – Director, Neighborhood Services, City of Reno

Process Overview

Purpose: Gather recommendations from the business community to create Washoe County safe gathering guidelines – for the next phase of opening our community.

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|---|---|
| Week of March 15 | <ul style="list-style-type: none">• 4 Advisory Group Sessions• Draft of the metrics/meter |
| Week of March 22 | <ul style="list-style-type: none">• 2 Working Session w/ regional teams• Share draft guidelines with Advisory Groups |
| Thursday, April 8th | <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Proposed plan presented to Board of County Commissioners for possible action to adopt |
| Wednesday, April 14th | <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Plan submittal to State Task Force |
| Thursday, April 15th | <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Plan presentation to State Task Force |
| Sometime prior to May 1st | <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Governor grants local authority based on the approved and endorsed plan |

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

(Business) Advisory Group – Key Recommendations

- Expand/**move away from capacity limits** with focus on Social Distance as the safety parameter. Determining capacity by % is complicated and difficult to figure out in many cases. *Some concern that removing capacity restrictions and moving to social distancing alone is too loose a parameter and subject to abuse.
- Expand to **groups of 8-10**.
- **Accommodate for Bar Service** within safe/SD parameters.
- Provide **clear guidelines for holding safe, outdoor events**.
- Clarify **who the leading authority** is and the **single source for consistent information & guidance**.
- **Communicate guidelines broadly** and consistently to ensure understanding among local community members and visitors.
- Level the playing field with **consistency and the same set of rules** for all businesses to follow.
- **Encourage compliance through Health Ratings** and highlighting businesses that are following protocol.
- **Businesses not required to provide patrons with face masks.**

(Events) Advisory Group – Key Recommendations

- Strong, **advanced communication** is needed to allow for as much pro-active planning as possible.
- It is not economically viable to hold large events at less than 100% capacity.
- Controlling large events will be very difficult if there are restrictions on them.
- Important to recognize unique capabilities per event and per venue.
- Larger attendance not likely in 2021 due to travel restrictions and safety concerns.
- **Permitting by facility** (pre-approval up to a certain size group) would allow for significant improvement in efficiency, planning & management.
- Recommending two approval processes: 1) By Facility/Venue and 2) By Event
- **Streamlined process** and quick turnaround for approval is critical to gaining event business quickly.

Mitigation Measures: Proposed

What Stays the Same:

**Masks are required in a public setting –
indoors and out.**

Masks keep everyone safe in public settings. In private settings, masks required if 6-ft is not achievable. Business owners are not required to provide masks.

Hygiene is still a must.

Wash your hands. Disinfect surfaces. You know what to do.

Keep outdoor private gatherings under 25.

Private gatherings maintained at 25 people or less. Gatherings outside of event venues fall under this guideline.

Mitigation Measures: Proposed

What is Changing:

Operate with 6-foot social distancing.

Capacity limits are lifted for all businesses replaced by six-foot social distancing between attendee groups. “All” means indoor and outdoor events, restaurants, bars, locker rooms, gyms, hot tubs, places of worship, retail, sporting events, tournaments etc. If in doubt, 50% capacity limit.

A group is eight.

Groups of eight are permitted, up from 6, for ticketed groups and tables at bars/restaurants.

Sports are a go. Buffets are not.

*All sports are permitted. Follow [Nevada Guidance for Adult & Youth Sports](#)
Buffets will remain closed.*

Events over 500 are allowed with a plan.

All indoor/outdoor events and tournaments, over 500 attendees require Large Gathering Covid-19 Preparedness & Safety Plan Certification Form. See Large Events Guidelines for details.

Event Specific Guidelines:

- Both indoor and outdoor fixed seating events will **not have a capacity limit as long as 6 feet is maintained** between ticketed groups. Capacity for fixed seating must be 6 feet distancing between attendee groups.
- All indoor and outdoor events, tournaments, and sporting events over 500 attendees require a **Large Gathering Covid-19 Preparedness & Safety Plan Certification Form**. The Approval Form is to be submitted as part of the existing Events Permitting Processes for those events within City of Reno, City of Sparks or Washoe County.
- Facility certification is available for all facilities to “**pre-certify**” **standard events**.
- Events approved by Business & Industry through June 30th fall under the State’s approval and authority.

Additional Business Specifics:

Bar Service:

Patrons maybe **served via bar or table service** while in compliance with 6ft social distancing. Bars may provide a **dedicated spot for ordering at the bar**. Patrons may be served at bar tops if spaced 6ft apart and bar top parties should be limited to no **more than 4 persons**.

Body Art & Piercing:

Services to be expanded to permit around the mouth and nose if the same rules for dental procedures are followed (mouth rinse, wash hands, employee wearing mask and face shield).

Adult Entertainment Establishments – Remain closed

Elevator – Hotels:

SB4 regulations and Section 12 of NRS requires guests to stay “at least six feet apart from employees and other guests” so the elevators will not be allowed to have the 8 people in them even if it is guests.

Elevators – Non-Hotels: Groups of 8 guests are permitted.

Enforcement and Communication

Enforcement:

Local jurisdictions will continue to perform the enforcement actions that have been ongoing for the past several months. Random inspections and follow up on complaints related to businesses have become a routine process for Washoe County, Reno, Sparks, and the Health District.

Follows existing code and ordinance due process procedures.

Communication:

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.

Monitoring and the Future

What's Next:

Adult vaccination rate overrides vaccine verification.

Because there is no vaccine verification system, reaching 75% adult vaccination is when restrictions will be loosened.

| 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 16+ year olds) than social distance may shrink from 6 feet to 4 feet between parties indoors or enclosed spaces and 3ft outdoors. | If the COVID meter remains in the yellow or green for 2 weeks straight and vaccination has reached 75% (for 16+ year olds) than all social distancing requirements can return to pre-COVID except for mask wearing, which would still be required. | If COVID meter reaches orange than the public and business community will be warned that if the COVID meter reaches red, the Thursday night at 11:59 pm of the week the meter reaches red, the community will be required to draw back in opening capacity. | 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. |

METRICS:

- COVID risk meter
- Wastewater model to predict waste stream concentrations
- Vaccination effort in Washoe County

COVID19washoe.com will have the current data.

Accurate, Current & Single Point Communication



Seniors 65+ sign up for the COVID-19 Vaccine Wait List – [Click Here](#)



COVID-19 in Washoe County

Find answers to COVID-19 questions in Washoe County, including COVID-19 testing and COVID-19 vaccines.



Overall Guidelines Summary

- **Masks are required in a public setting – indoors and out.**
- **Hygiene is still a must.**
- **Keep outdoor private gatherings under 25.**
- **Operate with 6-foot social distancing.**
- **A group is eight.**
- **Sports are a go. Buffets are not.**
- **Events over 500 are allowed with a plan.**
- **Adult vaccination rate overrides vaccine verification.**

Next Steps

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Questions?

