



NEVADA'S ROADMAP TO RECOVERY

February 2021



OVERVIEW

As Nevada navigates the COVID-19 global pandemic and continues vaccinating residents through an efficient and equitable approach, plans for a safe reopening must focus on how we can continue mitigating the spread while getting Nevadans back to work, protecting and recovering our economy, and getting our students back to in-person learning in the safest way possible.

According to state public health officials, a critical component of a successful reopening plan is that current restrictions must be eased incrementally and we continue to follow the mitigation measures that are proven to work. Commonly recommended or required mitigation measures are still the best way to protect people until wide-spread vaccination becomes available, including:

- ✓ limiting the number of people in enclosed spaces, ¹
- ✓ social distancing of at least 6 feet, ²
- ✓ requiring the use of masks, ^{3,4}
- ✓ increasing ventilation, ⁵ and
- ✓ using disinfectants on high-touch surfaces. ⁶

Each mitigation measure reduces overall risk and combining all of these measures has proven to be the most effective.

As leaders, businesses and members of the public continue to assess the risk associated with specific activities and work together to mitigate the spread and decrease community transmission, they must remember that the risk of infection from COVID-19 increases as:

- ✓ the size of groups increases, ^{7,8,9}
- ✓ the length of exposure increases, ¹⁰
- ✓ the amount of ventilation (indoors or outdoors) decreases, ^{11,12} and
- ✓ the amount of time unmasked increases. ¹³

It's for these reasons that the State is taking a responsible approach to reopening aimed at ensuring success for the long term and not just in the immediate and providing predictability through a clear timeline. On the following page is a summary timeline. Specific capacity limits and other changes are outlined by business or activity type in this guidance document.

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	FEBRUARY 15	MARCH 15	MAY 1
CAPACITY	Capacity limits will be lifted to 35% or 50% for certain business-types and activities based on risk-level.	Almost all business-types and activities will be allowed to operate at 50% capacity.	Transition to Local Authority* <i>*Statewide directives that will remain in place to mitigate the spread will include, but not be limited to: face covering mandate & social distancing safety protocols</i>
GATHERINGS	Gatherings will increase to no more than 100 individuals or 35 percent , whichever is less, under strict social distancing requirements. Large Gathering Plans may be submitted. No approvals for Large Gatherings will be provided until March 1 at the earliest.	Limited to no more than 250 individuals or 50 percent of fire code capacity, whichever is less, under strict social distancing requirements.	

Providing an adequate amount of time between the first step of reopening and the transition to local authority at the county level will allow for the following:

- Local governments will have time to prepare plans for a transition to local authority
- The State will be able to monitor impacts of continued vaccinations based on federal allocation of doses
- Public health officials will be able to monitor any potential impacts of new COVID-19 variants

Additionally, allowing for time between each step in the lifting of restrictions will let the State observe the full impacts of those actions on community transmission throughout Nevada --i.e. stabilization, increase or decrease in disease burden.

TRANSITION TO LOCAL AUTHORITY:

Nevada COVID-19 Mitigation and Management Task Force

Ultimately, the goal of this transition plan on our Roadmap to Recovery is to responsibly and safely reopen while continuing to experience downward trends and allow each county to demonstrate improvements before the transition to local authority on May 1, 2021.

The existing [county criteria metrics](#) will still be used as a guidepost to track progress in each county. From February 15 to the end of April, each county should aim to demonstrate a decrease in case rate and positivity rate, adequate hospital capacity within their region, and evidence that they can continue performing an adequate level of testing and other response efforts.

The Nevada COVID-19 Mitigation and Management Task Force will be reaching out to each county prior to March 15, 2021 to begin developing transition plans and to continue monitoring the COVID-19 situation in their local areas. The Task Force will continue to utilize the county criteria metrics to track progress by each county over time.



ROAD TO RECOVERY: MITIGATION TIMELINE

PUBLIC GATHERINGS & EVENTS

Large in-person gatherings can present risk for increasing the spread of COVID-19 if social distancing, face covering requirements, and other mitigation guidance is not followed. All organizations, individuals and families, and event planners are encouraged to provide remote events and gatherings as an alternative to hosting in-person gatherings.

	Current Restrictions under the Pause	New Measures starting February 15	New Measures starting March 1	New Measures starting March 15	May 1
CAPACITY	Limited to no more than 50 individuals or 25 percent of fire code capacity, whichever is less, under strict social distancing requirements.	Limited to no more than 100 individuals or 35 percent of fire code capacity, whichever is less, under strict social distancing requirements.	NO CHANGE	Limited to no more than 250 individuals or 50 percent of fire code capacity, whichever is less, under strict social distancing requirements.	Transition to Local Authority*
LARGE GATHERING PLANS	NOT allowed for submission and approval	Large Gathering Plans may be submitted. NO APPROVALS for Large Gatherings will be provided until March 1 at the earliest.	Large Gathering Plans allowed for submission and potential approval		Transition to Local Authority*
FACE COVERINGS	Employees, visitors and customers MUST always wear face coverings as required by Directive 024.				STATEWIDE MASK MANDATE WILL REMAIN IN EFFECT

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LARGE GATHERING PLANS: Beginning on **February 15**, those who plan to host a gathering, event, performance, or other congregation of people in a space with fixed seated capacity of 2,500 or more, may *submit* a Large Gathering Venue COVID-19 Preparedness & Safety Plan ("Large Gathering Plan") to the applicable state and local authorities. Large Gatherings will NOT be permitted to take place until March 1 at the earliest and can only take place upon receiving review and confirmation from the applicable local health authority and approval by the applicable State authority. These venues will be capped at 20 percent of the total fixed seated capacity and must follow strict social distancing requirements and be able to adhere to all mitigation protocols.

- **APPROVAL PROCESS:** Large gatherings will not be allowed without approval of a submitted plan. Every Large Gathering Plan must first be submitted to the local health authority with jurisdiction over the gathering or event for review and confirmation that the Large Gathering Plan meets the local public health standards and will not place an unacceptable burden on the local health infrastructure. Following written confirmation by the appropriate local health authority, the Plan will go to the applicable State authority for final review and potential approval. County, city and municipality local government authorities may not approve a Large Gathering Plan.

If COVID-19 trends continue to decline, beginning **March 15**, the State will allow Large Gathering Plans to be submitted for trade shows, conferences, conventions, professional seminars and similar gathering activities in excess of 250 people, which will be capped at a total of 1,000 attendees and/or registrants. This will be in addition to the Large Gathering Plans for venues that have fixed seated capacity of 2,500 or more (discussed above) that may be submitted for events that may not take place earlier than March 1, 2021.

****UPDATED "Nevada Guidance for Safe Gatherings" document will be released in the coming days****



PRIVATE GATHERINGS & EVENTS

In-person gatherings can present risk for increasing the spread of COVID-19 if social distancing, face covering requirements, and other mitigation guidance are not followed. All organizations, individuals and families, and event planners are encouraged to provide remote events and gatherings as an alternative to hosting in-person gatherings.

Public health officials continue to strongly recommend avoiding gatherings with individuals outside of your household.

	Current Restrictions under the Pause	New Measures starting February 15	May 1
CAPACITY	Private social gatherings are restricted to 10 people or fewer from no more than 2 households , whether indoors or outdoors.	Private social gatherings are restricted to 10 people indoors and 25 people outdoors .	Transition to Local Authority*
FACE COVERINGS	Face coverings MUST be worn at private social gatherings anytime individuals are with people outside of their household, even if you're socially distant.	NO CHANGE	STATEWIDE MASK MANDATE WILL REMAIN IN EFFECT

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FOOD & BEVERAGE ESTABLISHMENTS:

*Restaurants & Bars, Pubs, Wineries, Distilleries, and Breweries (those that serve food and those that do not).
This includes all restaurants and bars within gaming properties.*

	Current Restrictions under the Pause	New Measures starting February 15	New Measures starting March 15	May 1
CAPACITY	May allow indoor/outdoor dining under strict social distancing requirements at no more than 25% occupancy based on applicable fire code.	May allow indoor dining and beverage service at no more than 35% occupancy based on applicable fire code, under strict social distancing requirements. No occupancy limits for outdoor dining** , as long as all social distancing requirements are followed.	May allow indoor dining at no more than 50% occupancy based on applicable fire code, under strict social distancing requirements. No occupancy limits for outdoor dining** , as long as all social distancing requirements are followed.	Transition to Local Authority*
RESERVATIONS	Reservations REQUIRED	Reservations NOT REQUIRED		
SEATING	No more than 4 patrons per table with social distancing requirements	No more than 6 patrons per table with social distancing requirements		
BAR SEATING	Patrons sitting at a table or booth must only be served via table service . Patrons may be served at bar tops if spaced 6ft apart and bar top parties should be limited to no more than 2 persons.	NO CHANGE		Transition to Local Authority*
FACE COVERINGS	Face coverings MUST be worn at all times, except when actively eating or drinking, regardless of social distancing.	NO CHANGE		STATEWIDE MASK MANDATE WILL REMAIN IN EFFECT
ADDITIONAL MEASURES	Strongly encouraged to continue curbside, delivery, and/or carry out operations. Restaurants and bars are encouraged to try to expand outdoor seating options, and local governments are encouraged to work with these businesses to meet this goal. Restaurants and bars should continue to have hand sanitizer available and should be conducting health screenings and/or temperature checks. Buffets will remain prohibited.			

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***Outdoor dining means dining in an area that is not enclosed or surrounded by a roof and rigid wall structures or non-rigid materials, such as fabric or vinyl. For example, a tent with walls is considered "indoors" because it restricts natural air flow and ventilation. Areas covered by a structure without walls, such as an overhead canopy, sun shade, or awning, are considered "outdoors."*

PLACES OF WORSHIP:

	Current Restrictions under the Pause	New Measures starting February 15	New Measures starting March 15	May 1
CAPACITY	May operate under strict social distancing requirements at no more than 25% occupancy based on applicable fire code.	May operate under strict social distancing requirements at no more than 35% occupancy based on applicable fire code.	May operate under strict social distancing requirements at no more than 50% occupancy based on applicable fire code.	Transition to Local Authority*
FACE COVERINGS	All staff, volunteers, and visitors including faith leaders, MUST wear face coverings as required by Directive 024.			STATEWIDE MASK MANDATE WILL REMAIN IN EFFECT
ADDITIONAL MEASURES	CLICK HERE FOR NEVADA COVID-19 SAFETY GUIDANCE FOR PLACES OF WORSHIP			

**Statewide directives that will remain in place to mitigate the spread will include, but not be limited to: face covering mandate and social distancing safety protocols.*



GYMS, FITNESS/DANCE/YOGA STUDIOS, MARTIAL ARTS STUDIOS & SIMILAR ESTABLISHMENTS:

	Current Restrictions under the Pause	New Measures starting February 15	New Measures starting March 15	May 1
CAPACITY	May operate under strict social distancing requirements at no more than 25% occupancy based on applicable fire code.	May operate under strict social distancing requirements at no more than 35% occupancy based on applicable fire code.	May operate under strict social distancing requirements at no more than 50% occupancy based on applicable fire code.	Transition to Local Authority*
GYM/STUDIO LOCKER ROOMS**	CLOSED	Locker rooms may be open but MUST be limited to 50 percent capacity . Single stall showers may be utilized. Community showers, saunas, vapor baths, salt therapy rooms, hot tubs, spas and other communal areas remain prohibited.		Transition to Local Authority*
FACE COVERINGS	Face coverings MUST be worn at all times, regardless of physical activity or social distancing. <i>There are no exceptions to the mask requirement for indoor exercise. Masks MUST be worn over the nose and mouth at all times, unless you're actively drinking. If the activity is too strenuous to be done while wearing a mask properly, you must seek an alternative.</i>			STATEWIDE MASK MANDATE WILL REMAIN IN EFFECT
ADDITIONAL MEASURES	Equipment MUST be moved or designated inoperable to ensure a minimum of six feet of social distancing between users.			Transition to Local Authority*

*Statewide directives that will remain in place to mitigate the spread will include, but not be limited to: face covering mandate and social distancing safety protocols.

**Enclosed locker rooms that allow multiple individuals at one time increase risk of infection due to a lack of ventilation and limited ability to socially distance. Locker rooms must be limited to 50 percent capacity for this reason.

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GAMING FLOORS:

	Current Restrictions under the Pause	New Measures starting February 15	New Measures starting March 15	May 1
CAPACITY	May operate under strict social distancing requirements at no more than 25% occupancy based on applicable fire code and must operate pursuant to requirements issued by the Nevada Gaming Control Board, including health and safety policies.	May operate under strict social distancing requirements at no more than 35% occupancy based on applicable fire code and must operate pursuant to requirements issued by the Nevada Gaming Control Board, including health and safety policies.	May operate under strict social distancing requirements at no more than 50% occupancy based on applicable fire code and must operate pursuant to requirements issued by the Nevada Gaming Control Board, including health and safety policies.	MUST OPERATE ACCORDING TO THE REQUIREMENTS OF THE NEVADA GAMING CONTROL BOARD*
FACE COVERINGS	Employees, visitors and customers MUST always wear face coverings as required by Directive 024.			STATEWIDE MASK MANDATE WILL REMAIN IN EFFECT
ADDITIONAL MEASURES	Refer to guidance issued by the Nevada Gaming Control Board			

**Statewide directives that will remain in place to mitigate the spread will include, but not be limited to: face covering mandate and social distancing safety protocols.*



ARCADES, RACETRACKS, BOWLING ALLEYS, MINI GOLF, POOL HALLS, AMUSEMENT & THEME PARKS, and SIMILAR ACTIVITIES:

These venues have many high-touch surfaces and are common venues for group gatherings, or gatherings that would promote food/drink consumption or other activities that would require mask removal. A responsible and staggered approach is strongly recommended by public health officials.

	Current Restrictions under the Pause	New Measures starting February 15	New Measures starting March 15	May 1
CAPACITY	May operate under strict social distancing requirements at no more than 25% occupancy based on applicable fire code.	May operate under strict social distancing requirements at no more than 35% occupancy based on applicable fire code.	May operate under strict social distancing requirements at no more than 50% occupancy based on applicable fire code.	Transition to Local Authority*
FACE COVERINGS	Employees, visitors and customers MUST always wear face coverings as required by Directive 024.			STATEWIDE MASK MANDATE WILL REMAIN IN EFFECT
ADDITIONAL MEASURES	High-touch surfaces should be avoided (remain closed if applicable/possible) and cleaned frequently. Food and drink should be contained to areas designated as restaurants/food courts and should adhere to requirements in place for those types of establishments.			Transition to Local Authority*

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LIBRARIES, MUSEUMS, ART GALLERIES, AQUARIUMS & ZOOS:

	Current Restrictions under the Pause	New Measures starting February 15	May 1
CAPACITY	May operate under strict social distancing requirements at no more than 25% occupancy based on applicable fire code.	May operate under strict social distancing requirements at no more than 50% occupancy based on applicable fire code.	Transition to Local Authority*
FACE COVERINGS	Employees, visitors and customers MUST always wear face coverings as required by Directive 024.		STATEWIDE MASK MANDATE WILL REMAIN IN EFFECT
ADDITIONAL MEASURES	<p>All interactive and/or hands-on exhibits must be closed. High-touch surfaces should be avoided and cleaned frequently.</p> <p>Food and drink should be contained to areas designated as restaurants/food courts and should adhere to requirements in place for those types of establishments.</p>		Transition to Local Authority*

*Statewide directives that will remain in place to mitigate the spread will include, but not be limited to: face covering mandate and social distancing safety protocols.

BODY ART & PIERCING ESTABLISHMENTS:

	Current Restrictions under the Pause	New Measures starting February 15	May 1
CAPACITY	May operate under strict social distancing requirements at no more than 50% occupancy based on applicable fire code.	May operate under strict social distancing requirements per existing Directives.	Transition to Local Authority*
APPOINTMENTS	Services shall be provided by appointment only , and customers waiting for an appointment must wait outside and practice social distancing.		
FACE COVERINGS	Employees, visitors and customers MUST always wear face coverings as required by Directive 024.		STATEWIDE MASK MANDATE WILL REMAIN IN EFFECT
ADDITIONAL MEASURES	<p>No body art or piercing may be done around the nose or mouth.</p> <p>Establishments with walls/partitions between stations or chairs may utilize all stations, but no more than 1 customer can be at a station at any given time. Establishments without walls/partitions between stations/chairs may only seat clients every other station or chair, or arrange stations or chairs to a min of 6ft apart.</p>		Transition to Local Authority*

*Statewide directives that will remain in place to mitigate the spread will include, but not be limited to: face covering mandate and social distancing safety protocols.



SPAS, MASSAGE THERAPY & MASSAGE ESTABLISHMENTS:

	CURRENT MITIGATION MEASURES WILL CONTINUE THROUGH MAY 1	May 1
CAPACITY	May operate under strict social distancing requirements per existing Directives and protocols established by the Nevada State Board of Cosmetology and Nevada State Board of Massage Therapy .	MUST OPERATE ACCORDING TO THE REQUIREMENTS OF THE NEVADA STATE BOARD OF COSMETOLOGY & NEVADA STATE BOARD OF MASSAGE THERAPY
APPOINTMENTS	Services shall be provided by appointment only , and customers waiting for an appointment must wait outside and practice social distancing.	
FACE COVERINGS	Employees, visitors and customers MUST always wear face coverings as required by Directive 024.	STATEWIDE MASK MANDATE WILL REMAIN IN EFFECT
ADDITIONAL MEASURES	Out-call and/or in-home service may be provided with observation of same protocols as in the establishments. Establishments, including day and overnight spas, that may operate for aesthetic and massage services must prohibit the use of steam rooms, saunas, portable saunas, vapor baths, salt therapy rooms, hot tubs, and any other communal facilities.	MUST OPERATE ACCORDING TO THE REQUIREMENTS OF THE NEVADA STATE BOARD OF COSMETOLOGY & NEVADA STATE BOARD OF MASSAGE THERAPY

**Statewide directives that will remain in place to mitigate the spread will include, but not be limited to: face covering mandate and social distancing safety protocols.*



HAIR SALONS, BARBERSHOPS, NAIL SALONS & BUSINESSES THAT PROVIDE AESTHETIC SKIN SERVICES:

	CURRENT MITIGATION MEASURES WILL CONTINUE THROUGH MAY 1	May 1
CAPACITY	May operate under strict social distancing requirements per existing Directives and protocols established by the Nevada State Board of Cosmetology and Nevada Barbers' Health and Sanitation Board, as applicable.	MUST OPERATE ACCORDING TO THE REQUIREMENTS OF THE NEVADA STATE BOARD OF COSMETOLOGY & NEVADA BARBERS' HEALTH AND SANITATION BOARD
APPOINTMENTS	Services shall be provided by appointment only , and customers waiting for an appointment must wait outside and practice social distancing.	
FACE COVERINGS	Employees, visitors and customers MUST always wear face coverings as required by Directive 024.	STATEWIDE MASK MANDATE WILL REMAIN IN EFFECT
ADDITIONAL MEASURES	Out-call and/or in-home service may be provided with observation of same protocols as in the establishments. Salons & barber shops with walls/partitions between stations or chairs may utilize all stations, but no more than 1 customer can be at a station at any given time. Salons and barber shops without walls/partitions between stations/chairs may only seat clients every other station or chair, or arrange stations or chairs to a min of 6ft apart.	MUST OPERATE ACCORDING TO THE REQUIREMENTS OF THE NEVADA STATE BOARD OF COSMETOLOGY & NEVADA BARBERS' HEALTH AND SANITATION BOARD

**Statewide directives that will remain in place to mitigate the spread will include, but not be limited to: face covering mandate and social distancing safety protocols.*



RETAIL STORES:

	Current Restrictions under the Pause	New Measures starting February 15	May 1
CAPACITY	May operate under strict social distancing requirements at no more than 50% occupancy based on applicable fire code.	NO CHANGE	Transition to Local Authority*
RETAIL & GROCERY STORES W/OVER 50,000 sq. ft. capacity	<p>MUST have "counters" at all public entrances to manage capacity.</p> <p>MUST have health screening signage at public entrances.</p> <p>Encouraged to conduct temperature screenings before entry.</p>	NO CHANGE	
SELF-SERVE FOOD/BEVERAGE OPTIONS	Retail stores, including grocery stores, may NOT offer self-serve food options, like salad bars and unpackaged dry goods, nuts, seeds, coffee, etc.	Retail stores, including grocery stores, may offer limited self-service food and drinks with mitigation measures in place.**	
FACE COVERINGS	Employees, visitors and customers MUST always wear face coverings as required by Directive 024.		STATEWIDE MASK MANDATE WILL REMAIN IN EFFECT
ADDITIONAL MEASURES	Strongly encouraged to promote and continue online or call-in ordering, curbside, delivery, and/or carry out operations.		

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** These locations can allow for social distancing by strictly limiting the number of customers at one time. ^{14, 15} Recommended mitigation practices include, but are not limited to: limiting number of individuals using food and drink stations at one time; using individual or disposable utensils and serving ware wherever possible; and providing hand sanitizer and recommending usage before touching any communal surfaces.

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INDOOR MALLS:

	Current Restrictions under the Pause	New Measures starting February 15	May 1
CAPACITY	May operate under strict social distancing requirements at no more than 50% occupancy based on applicable fire code -- including no more than 50% capacity within each individual retail store , which must comply with all retail business restrictions.	NO CHANGES	Transition to Local Authority*
FACE COVERINGS	Employees, visitors and customers MUST always wear face coverings as required by Directive 024.		STATEWIDE MASK MANDATE WILL REMAIN IN EFFECT
ADDITIONAL MEASURES	Strongly encouraged to promote and continue online or call-in ordering, curbside, delivery, and/or carry out operations.		

*Statewide directives that will remain in place to mitigate the spread will include, but not be limited to: face covering mandate and social distancing safety protocols.

CANNABIS - Medicinal & Recreational Establishments:

	CURRENT MITIGATION MEASURES WILL CONTINUE THROUGH MAY 1	May 1
CAPACITY	May operate under strict social distancing requirements at no more than 50% occupancy based on applicable fire code. Must follow expanded health and safety guidelines enforced by the Nevada Cannabis Compliance Board.	MUST OPERATE ACCORDING TO THE REQUIREMENTS OF THE NEVADA CANNABIS COMPLIANCE BOARD*
FACE COVERINGS	Employees, visitors and customers MUST always wear face coverings as required by Directive 024.	STATEWIDE MASK MANDATE WILL REMAIN IN EFFECT
ADDITIONAL MEASURES	Strongly encouraged to promote and continue online or call-in ordering, curbside, delivery, and/or carry out operations.	MUST OPERATE ACCORDING TO THE REQUIREMENTS OF THE NEVADA CANNABIS COMPLIANCE BOARD*

*Statewide directives that will remain in place to mitigate the spread will include, but not be limited to: face covering mandate and social distancing safety protocols.

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COMMUNITY & RECREATIONAL CENTERS:

	CURRENT MITIGATION MEASURES WILL CONTINUE THROUGH MAY 1	May 1
CAPACITY	May operate under strict social distancing requirements at no more than 50% occupancy based on applicable fire code.	Transition to Local Authority*
FACE COVERINGS	Employees, visitors and customers MUST always wear face coverings as required by Directive 024.	STATEWIDE MASK MANDATE WILL REMAIN IN EFFECT

*Statewide directives that will remain in place to mitigate the spread will include, but not be limited to: face covering mandate and social distancing safety protocols.

YOUTH AND ADULT RECREATIONAL SPORTS:

	Current Restrictions under the Pause	New Measures starting March 15	May 1
TOURNAMENTS	PROHIBITED	Tournaments for permissible sports (pursuant to Directive 034) allowed to resume no earlier than March 15 . Tournaments must be approved by applicable State authorities prior to competitions. Preparedness & Safety Plans may be submitted for approval as early as February 15 .	Transition to Local Authority*
FACE COVERINGS	Athletes, coaches, organizers and spectators MUST always wear face coverings as required by Directive 024 and the approved Preparedness & Safety Plan that governs the tournament.		STATEWIDE MASK MANDATE WILL REMAIN IN EFFECT
ADDITIONAL MEASURES	Amount of spectators allowed at a tournament will be dictated by the applicable Directives on gathering sizes and must be outlined in the tournament's approved Preparedness & Safety Plan.		

*Statewide directives that will remain in place to mitigate the spread will include, but not be limited to: face covering mandate and social distancing safety protocols.

This guidance does NOT govern professional sports leagues or college division level sports. The NIAA retains authority over when high school sports will resume and the guidelines under which competition will resume, consistent with Section 7 of Directive 028 and Sections 5 and 7 of Directive 034.

UPDATED "Nevada Guidance for Adult & Youth Sports" document will be released in the coming days



REMAINING CLOSED:

	May 1
ADULT ENTERTAINMENT ESTABLISHMENTS	Transition to Local Authority*
NIGHTCLUBS & DAYCLUBS	
BROTHELS	
KARAOKE	

**Statewide directives that will remain in place to mitigate the spread will include, but not be limited to: face covering mandate and social distancing safety protocols.*

Q&A:

Why are some businesses remaining at 35 percent capacity for a month while others are allowed to be open with 50 percent capacity?

According to State public health officials, a critical component of a successful reopening plan is that current restrictions must be eased incrementally. As we ease restrictions, we must follow the science and studies, which states clearly and repeatedly that closures to certain settings are more impactful in reducing disease transmission. Those should be extended longer and eased more slowly (ex: indoor dining, restaurants, bars, coffee shops, gyms).

Enclosed indoor spaces like restaurants, gyms and places of worship pose the highest risk to individuals.^{16, 17} This is because COVID-19 is transmitted primarily from person to person through shared air.^{18, 19, 20, 21, 22} The virus can linger in the air for several hours in poorly ventilated spaces.^{23, 24}

Additionally, COVID-19 transmission risk increases with number of individuals in one location, ability to wear masks, amount of ventilation, and length of exposure. For example, individuals dining indoors are likely to remain in the location for a longer length of time with their masks removed, and sufficient ventilation cannot be guaranteed.²⁶

What will the response and management of the pandemic look like under local authority?

The goal of this safe reopening plan is to allow counties the time needed to develop transition plans and demonstrate continued progress and downward trends. If counties demonstrate downward trends and the ability to continue providing adequate response measures (ex. testing) to their communities, the State has the goal of transitioning decision-making authority on mitigation management to local officials.

Specific statewide directives will remain in place to mitigate the spread, including but not limited to the mask mandate and other social distancing requirements.



For the businesses that remain closed, will they be able to open after May 1st?

The businesses that will remain closed throughout this timeline include adult entertainment establishments, dayclubs and nightclubs, brothels, and karaoke. If counties experience a downward trend and meet other requirements, the State will transition decision-making authority on the management of these businesses and activities to local authorities.

Will face coverings be required throughout this timeline?

Yes. Individuals in Nevada are required to wear a face covering when they are around others who are not in their immediate household. The emergency directive includes exemptions for children under a certain age and individuals who are unable to wear or tolerate a face covering due to medical or mental health conditions or certain other reasons. There are also situations in which a face covering may be temporarily removed, such as when actively eating or drinking, provided that social distancing is maintained between members of different parties. Businesses and venues may choose to have more protective requirements than those in the Directive.

This mask mandate will continue throughout this timeline, and will remain in effect after May 1, 2021, even after other mitigation measures are transitioned to local authority.

What happens if we experience another surge?

While the State is hopeful that trends will continue to decrease if all mitigation measures are followed, the State must remain flexible in its response. The COVID-19 Mitigation and Management Task Force will continue to monitor data trends throughout this timeline and work closely with counties and Local Health Authorities to evaluate next steps should a significant increase begin to occur.

How will the new variants impact community transmission?

Three new strains have all been identified in the United States. The UK strain (B. 1.1.7) has been identified in 30 U.S. states, including confirmed cases in Nevada. This strain appears to be more contagious than the original strain, although evidence is limited at this time. The Pfizer and Moderna COVID-19 vaccines appear to be effective on this strain. Less is known about the Brazilian Variance SARS-CoV-2 (known as P.1) and South African (B.1.351) strains, but they are likely to also be more contagious than the original strain.

Spread of the more contagious strains could cause a sudden rise in caseload, hospitalizations, and mortality. The U.S. currently only has limited ability to detect new strains through genome sequencing, so it is likely new strains will spread faster than the ability to detect them. None of the new strains are confirmed to spread differently (i.e., aerosol is the primary way the virus is spread) present different symptoms, or affect different age groups than the original strain.

Social distancing and masking are still important and effective. Recently, the CDC updated their [mask guidelines](#) to recommend wearing a mask with multiple layers for greater protection, or double masking (layering a cloth mask over a disposable medical mask). Double masking is recommended particularly to help protect against the new, more contagious strains.



Why can't we fully reopen since people are getting vaccinated?

The availability of a COVID-19 vaccine makes this round of reopening slightly different than efforts that took place previously, before a vaccine was available. However, with limited vaccine availability based on current federal allocation, it is not anticipated that we reach any level of herd immunity in the immediate future. However, vaccine progress proves there is hope on the horizon, and any steps towards reopening should be done in parallel with the increase in vaccination rates. Currently, vaccine coverage in the state is approximately 10%; we will likely need more than 80% of people in the state vaccinated to reach herd immunity.

Vaccination generates a significantly stronger immune response than natural infection, so is expected to provide better, longer-term protection against COVID-19.

In addition to accounting for those who have completed vaccination, why can't we count Nevadans who've already been infected with COVID-19 toward our herd immunity?

According to the [CDC](#), "reinfection means a person was infected (got sick) once, recovered, and then later became infected again." When it comes to COVID-19 re-infection, reinfection is not common nor widely documented, but does occur and is more likely with new strains. Dr. Mark Pandori, Director of the Nevada State Public Health Laboratory, predicts that we are missing cases of reinfection.²⁵ Additionally, a February report from Kaiser Health noted that "Scientists have confirmed that reinfections after initial illness caused by the SARS-CoV-2 virus are possible, but so far have characterized them as rare. But scientists' understanding of reinfection has been constrained by the limited number of U.S. labs that retain COVID testing samples or perform genetic sequencing."

Knowing that there is a possibility of re-infection but we don't yet fully understand the rates among the public means we must remain vigilant. Ultimately, patients who've had COVID-19 must continue to follow all mitigation measures and should get the vaccine when it's their turn.

As we continue on the Road to Recovery, it will be critical for the State of Nevada to continue monitoring state and national data and studies on this issue to see any potential impacts.

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