



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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Gov. Sisolak announces mandatory face covering policy in public

CARSON CITY, NV — Today, Nevada Governor Steve Sisolak issued a mandatory face covering policy for all Nevadans and visitors by signing Directive 024.

"I'm proud of the work Nevadans have completed thus far in helping us flatten the curve, but our work is far from over" **said Governor Sisolak.** "Today's directive is our opportunity to limit our risk for exposure and infection, and to keep our businesses open and our economy moving. For Nevada to stay safe and stay open, we must make face coverings a routine part of our daily life."

This directive comes after a four week climb in cases at which time the Governor asked the Nevada Medical Advisory Team to analyze potential options for slowing the spread, specific to facial coverings. Research done by the MAT and the CDC has indicated that facial coverings are one of the most effective ways to slow the transmission of this disease.

Per this requirement, anyone in any public space throughout the State, including visitors, will need to wear a mask. This includes using public transportation, public facing work environments, when patronizing businesses, or interacting with others in any generally publicly accessible space.

Directive 024 and a guidance document corresponding to this directive with information on the practical application and exceptions are attached to this email and can be found online at <https://nvhealthresponse.nv.gov/>.

The Governor's full prepared remarks related to Directive 024 are as follows:

Good evening, thank you for being here tonight.

Today, I am again joined by Caleb Cage, the Nevada COVID-19 Response Director and Ms. Julia Peek, a deputy administrator in the Department of Health and Human Services. In this role, Ms. Peek is helping lead Nevada's statewide contact tracing efforts. I am pleased to have them both here with me.

As you know, Nevada is continuing to operate in Phase 2 of our Roadmap to Recovery plan, allowing our medical, public health and emergency response professionals to evaluate and analyze new trends, including what is now a four week upward trend of new daily cases.

We are still watching the continued increase in our confirmed and suspected COVID-19 hospitalizations as well. Recently, that number reached 439 cases in Nevada's hospitals statewide, however, patients requiring ICU beds and ventilators continues to hold steady. The Nevada Hospital Association is regularly evaluating the effects of COVID19 on staffing, PPE supplies and bed capacity. At this point, the hospital association continues to remain confident they can serve the needs of all Nevadans.

I want to take a moment to remind everyone where we've been. Our goal for Phase 1 was to flatten the curve. Nevadans responded to the challenge and we were able to lift some restrictions.

To go to Phase 2, our goal was to achieve 14 days of flat or decreasing positive test rate and hospitalizations. Many Nevadans acted responsibly, and

after achieving those goals, we reopened much of our economy.

While there continued to be some limitations, bars, restaurants, beauty salons and many other businesses brought their employees back to work and opened their doors. A short while later we were able to reopen our states primary industry...tourism.

At that time, I told Nevadans that to stay open and remove further restrictions we all had to accept our personal responsibility to keep our workers, our families and ourselves safe.

At that time, I mandated that Nevada businesses and employees who interact with the public wear face coverings and continued to strongly encourage members of the public to wear face coverings as well. Unfortunately, as you can see from the data, we have taken some steps backwards.

Clearly for many, the excitement and enthusiasm for escaping our confinement and finally being able to enjoy dinner out with our families, buy new clothes or get a haircut, overshadowed the good judgement we practiced in the previous months.

Unfortunately and inexcusably, I also made an error in judgement while out to dinner, where I was photographed not wearing a mask. It was an error and inexcusable.

Too many Nevadans have had the same lapse of judgement. Every hour there are photographs, or videos, posted of large unmasked clusters of people...clusters of potential COVID19 spread.

So I want to put it to you like this: If back in March, before we shut down the vast majority of our economy, I said to you: we can keep our economy open if everyone agrees to wear masks and maintain 6 feet in person-to-person distance. Who would have not accepted that offer? That is exactly what needs

to be considered today.

I don't know why or when protecting our health and our neighbors' lives became a political, partisan or even philosophical decision. For me it's none of those ... it's a medical necessity, a human obligation and.... it's good for business.

Study after study, worldwide, every notable medical professional from President Trump's top advisor, Dr. Fauci, to all of our Nevada medical professionals, assert one unassailable conclusion... wearing face coverings saves lives, period.

In fact, one study highlighted by my Medical Advisory Team showed that replacing our strict lockdown with social distancing alone, without universal masking, results in an unchecked spread, with potentially devastating results.

It showed that when at least 80% of a population adopts universal masking, it results in a substantial reduction of infection.

On the other hand, masking at only 50% of a population is not sufficient to prevent continued spread.

We owe it to each other to accept the fact that wearing face coverings saves lives. We owe it to the many workers.....health care professionals, retail clerks, restaurant workers, grocery store employees to accept that fact. We owe it to Nevada's many businesses large and small to accept that fact.

My fellow Nevadans: I'm offering us all another opportunity to limit our risk for exposure and infection, and to keep our businesses open and our economy moving. For Nevada to stay safe and stay open, we must make face coverings a routine part of our daily life.

That's why, today, at the recommendation of the Medical Advisory Team, I signed a directive with a new requirement for Nevadans and visitors to wear a cover their nose and mouth with a mask or face covering, when in public space, whether publicly or privately owned. This directive is effective on Friday, to give businesses a day to get ready.

We understand that the situation in some areas of the State is not as bad as others. We recognize that as well as all of the work that everyone across the State has been doing. However, we are seeing a spike in positive cases and we need to ask everyone around the State to do their very best to keep us all safe.

This especially applies to indoor activities in which you are near other people, including grocery stores, retail businesses, malls and gaming properties. Detailed guidance is available online at [NVHealthResponse.nv.gov](https://www.nvhealthresponse.gov).

There are, of course, exceptions to this directive. For instance, those with medical conditions that make it difficult to breathe, those with a disability that prevents them from wearing a face covering, and young children between the ages of two and nine are exempt from this requirement, however they are still strongly encouraged to wear a face covering as much as possible. The full list of exemptions are outlined in the guidance online.

I encourage all businesses to prominently post signage to alert customers and help ensure this directive is followed. I know there are some businesses who have already required face coverings for customers and I thank you for this strong and helpful stance.

Businesses that fail to meet requirements in this directive will face violations from local licensing agencies and regulatory authorities, in addition to Nevada OSHA. A reminder as well that businesses have the right to ask a patron to leave if they are not following this directive.

I call on local governments and regulatory authorities to help ensure there is education around this directive for our businesses and subsequent enforcement through the appropriate bodies if compliance is not met.

But it's not just on the businesses or state and local government – it's on all of us. I am asking individuals throughout Nevada to take this seriously and understand the risk you are posing on yourself and others by not wearing a face covering.

And I know there are probably a lot of questions about additional enforcement measures for individuals. I want to be clear: this is a mandate, so enforcement language is necessary, however, ideally there won't be any criminal or civil sanctions for individuals. The last thing I want is for monetary fines or criminal penalties to be imposed on Nevadans, which is why I strongly encourage everyone to follow this directive.

Nevada is a State that prides itself on it's fierce individualism. It's part of what makes us great. So I'm asking all of us to take our independent spirit and turn that into our individual responsibility to keep the lights on for businesses throughout our State.

I believe there are more good than bad in this, but I know we've all seen the concerning pictures of crowded spaces since reopening. They may appear anecdotal for now, but due to our increasing efforts in contact tracing, they won't be anecdotal for long.

Increased contact tracing capacity will continue to help us know where and how people are contracting this virus, and we'll soon be able to pinpoint industries and businesses where people are at higher risk of becoming infected with COVID-19.

I don't want to have to take steps backward by imposing stronger restrictions on those identified as high risk if I don't have to – and the best way to

prevent that is to not let a business type or industry become high risk in the first place. It's on all of us, Nevada.

To be clear, due to the data and time needed for evaluation of contact tracing and impacts of this new face covering directive, any discussion of entering Phase 3 will be tabled.

The pandemic is not over, as I said last week, we are not yet post-COVID, we are still in the middle of the first wave of COVID.

So, please, I cannot emphasize this enough, wear your face covering anytime you leave your house. When you go to restaurant, when you stop at a pharmacy, when you enter a casino, wear your face covering.

You don't need to wear an N95 mask like medical professionals wear. The Medical Advisory Team and the CDC recommend homemade fabric face coverings of all types.

They're easy to make, and can be made from cloth, or fashioned out of something as simple as a bandana or an old T-shirt. Options for doing so have been linked in our guidance and there are several additional resources online. Let's all work together to stay safe to stay open. No shirt, no shoes, no mask, no service.

I know Nevadans are worried not only about their health but also about their jobs and commerce. They keep asking me and my team, "What can I do to help?" You can do this. Everyone can. This simple act is this is not only a way for us to save lives, but also a way for us to save the Nevada economy.

And while I called this press conference to discuss face coverings tonight, I also wanted to give a quick update on our state budget. Afterall, our budget and economy have been directly impacted by the public health crisis.

As you know, the COVID-19 pandemic has caused budget shortfalls for both the 2020 fiscal year and the 2021 fiscal year.

Major actions to address the budget shortfall in FY2020 included transferring the Rainy Day Fund, reversing one-time appropriations and capital improvements, and reducing the operating budget by approximately \$67.5 million. These were approved by the Interim Finance Committee on June 12th.

That brings us to the projected Fiscal Year 2021 shortfall. The latest revised revenue projection developed jointly by the Fiscal Analysis Division and the Governor's Finance Office reflects a total General Fund shortfall estimated at approximately \$1.27 billion. This is approximately 25% of our annual operating budget.

We anticipate General Fund revenue collections for April business activity will be released within the next few days, at which time, the projected shortfalls for both FY20 and FY21 will be updated and final actions for both of my budget proposals can be finalized with the most up-to-date numbers.

Here's what I want to emphasize before I wrap up: This is not a normal recession. The state went from it's economic peak to its economic trough in a matter of weeks, as a result of tough decisions to save lives.

Revenues may very well recover faster than expected if the coronavirus were to subside due to responsible actions by all of us, or if a treatment were to become available earlier than anticipated. Or, revenues may recover more slowly if a second wave slows the reopening of our economy.

Unprecedented. Historic. Uncharted. All of these words fit our situation, and it would be irresponsible to release every minute-by-minute revision of this budget proposal without proper vetting by our fiscal experts, and before receiving our latest revenue numbers, with the hopes of reducing the potentially dramatic impacts to our state budget.

I look forward to receiving these numbers and making any final adjustments to the FY21 budget proposal so I can share it with all of you.

Finally, I wanted to acknowledge some amazing Nevadans. Back in early April, my office launched the Hero of the Day campaign recognizing Nevadans that have gone above and beyond to help their fellow citizens in response to the COVID-19 pandemic. We recognized medical professionals, first responders, school teachers, grocery clerks, citizens standing up donation drives and many more.

As the state continues to reopen, I am excited to launch a new campaign tonight to recognize Nevada businesses that are following directive guidelines to stop the spread of COVID-19.

Tonight, we launch the Battle Born Business campaign to highlight the businesses taking creative and safe measures to stay safe to stay open.

Please send nominations with a photo and brief explanation for the nomination to BattleBornBizNV@gmail.com. That's BattleBornBizNV@gmail.com.

At this time I'd like to take a moment to recognize some great Nevadans. My staff and I have briefed numerous business leaders, medical professionals, gaming executives and labor groups.

From Chambers of Commerce to construction workers, to gaming executives and hospitality employees, I want to thank you for your understanding, support and commitment to our shared mission... keeping Nevada open, keeping Nevada strong, and keeping Nevadans and our guests as safe and healthy as possible.

I'm asking Nevadans tonight to unify in an effort to move forward. Republicans, Democrats, left and right, business owners and workers, lets do

what's necessary to not only keep our economy open, but hopefully allow us to go full throttle in the future, safely and successfully. Anything less than our total commitment will lead to the terrible consequences we've all seen in other parts of our nation and the world.

Thank you. I will now take some questions.

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Nevada Medical Advisory Team:
Guidance on Directive 024: Face Coverings
June 24, 2020

Summary: This document provides guidance on Directive 024, which enhances the original [GUIDANCE](#) on improvised face coverings released in conjunction with the advice of the Nevada Medical Advisory Team on April 3. This new directive requires Nevadans and visitors to wear face coverings when they are out in public, with limited exceptions as outlined below. Read on to learn more about the directive mandating face coverings:

When and where am I required to wear a face covering?

Whenever you leave the house. To keep businesses open and help slow the spread, face coverings are required.

Face coverings should be worn at all times in the following circumstances:

- Public spaces:
 - Inside of, or standing in line waiting to enter, any indoor public space.
 - While outside in a public space when 6 feet of social distancing from those not in your same household isn't possible.
- Public or Private Transportation or paratransit that others HAVE used or WILL use:
 - While waiting for or riding on public transportation or paratransit.
 - While riding in taxis, private car services, monorails, trams, and rideshares like Uber and Lyft.
 - While driving or operating any form of transportation or paratransit when passengers not in your same household are

present. When no passengers are present, face coverings are still strongly recommended.

- While at work:
 - When interacting in-person with members of the public.
 - When in any space visited by the general public, even if no one else is present.
 - When in any space where food is prepared or packaged, for sale, or generally distributed to others.
 - When walking through common areas, such as hallways, stairways, elevators, and parking facilities.
 - In any room or enclosed area where other people (except for members of the person's own household or residence) are present when unable to physically distance.

Are children required to wear a face covering?

- The following children should never wear a face covering:
 - Those 2 years of age and under, to avoid potential risk of suffocation.
 - Those who have a mental health condition, medical condition, or disability that prevents them from wearing a face covering.
 - Those who are engaged in strenuous physical activity.
- Children ages 2 to 9 are strongly encouraged to wear face coverings when in public spaces. Children ages 10 and above are required to wear face coverings when in public spaces.
- Children in Child Care: Child care providers must comply with requirements established by the Nevada Department of Health and Human Services Division of Public and Behavioral Health (or, in Washoe County, the Washoe County Department of Social Services) and are responsible for clearly communicating any requirements to parents and guardians.
- Children Enrolled in Summer School: Public or charter schools operating summer school programs must comply with any requirements established by the local school district and/or Nevada Department of Education. Any requirements should be

communicated to students and parents or guardians and should be posted in classrooms.

- Children at Day Camps: Operators of day camps and similar programs must comply with requirements established by the Nevada Department of Health and Human Services and local health authorities and are responsible for clearly communicating any requirements to parents, guardians, and campers.

Are there any exemptions to who should wear a face covering? Yes,

Exemptions include persons:

- Who are 2 years of age and under, to avoid potential risk of suffocation.
- Who have a medical condition, whether it be mental health, disability, or other health reason that prevents them from wearing a face covering. This includes people with any medical condition for whom wearing a face covering can obstruct their breathing or who are unconscious, incapacitated, or otherwise unable to remove a face covering without assistance.
- Who are experiencing homelessness. These individuals are strongly encouraged to continue to practice social distancing, to wear face coverings if possible, and to seek out community services where available.
- Who are hearing impaired, or when in communication with an individual who is hearing impaired where the ability to see the mouth is essential for communication.
- For whom wearing a face covering would create a risk to the person as related to their work, as determined by local, state, or federal regulators or workplace safety guidelines.
- Who are obtaining services involving the nose or face for which temporary removal of the face covering is necessary to perform the service.
- Who are seated at a restaurant or other establishment that offers food or beverage services, while they are eating or

drinking, provided that they are able to maintain a distance of at least six feet away from persons who are not members of the same household or residence.

- Who are engaged in outdoor work or recreation such as swimming, walking, hiking, bicycling, or running, when alone or with household members, and when they are able to maintain a distance of at least six feet from others.
- Who are incarcerated. Prisons and jails are working diligently to mitigate the spread and have developed their own specific guidance for face coverings that applies to both inmates and staff.
- Who have a medical condition or disability, or who are otherwise unable to remove a mask without assistance. Individuals exempted under this provision should wear a non-restrictive alternative, such as a face shield, if possible.

I'm a business owner, what does this mean for me? With this new directive, businesses are asked to establish a "no mask, no service" policy for your own employees' and patrons' safety. Post notices on doors and in front of your locations to enhance public awareness and requirements for entry and safety. Please thoroughly screen those who are exempted from this face covering directive. The Nevada Health Response Team has provided this "No Mask, No Service" printable [POSTER](#) for businesses to display reminding customers of the new face covering requirement for entry. For convenience, the Team has also provided the poster in [SPANISH](#) and in both [ENGLISH and SPANISH](#).

Can a business refuse service to someone who refuses to wear a mask or face covering?

Businesses should first check that the individual is not part of an exempted category. If they are not exempted, businesses are encouraged to use the opportunity to have a discussion with any non-compliant individual and educate them on the importance of wearing a face covering to protect

themselves, other patrons, and staff. Businesses do have the right to ask a patron to return at a different time with a face covering.

If a confrontation occurs between a patron refusing to wear a face covering and an employee, please use discretion and alert local law enforcement as necessary.

I'm a consumer, I want to support my local bars, my favorite restaurants, casinos, etc., what does this mean for me? Wearing a face covering is a way for every Nevadan to play their role in restarting our economy, keeping businesses open, and keeping your neighbors and families safe. If you support your local Nevada businesses and their staff, the best thing you can do to keep them open and keep them safe, is to wear a face covering and practice social distancing.

Why should we wear a face covering? Additional scientific information has come to light about the transmission of COVID-19, specifically that people that are infected but are asymptomatic or are pre-symptomatic unfortunately play a significant part in the spread. The use of face coverings, in conjunction with aggressive social distancing, can significantly limit the transmission of infectious particles when someone talks, coughs, or sneezes. See the bottom of this guidance for additional resources.

Who else should wear a face covering? Everyone that isn't impacted by one of the exemptions listed above. This virus doesn't care about your age, gender, or race, it attacks the entire populace. Many of those who've contracted the virus may be asymptomatic, so it's critical we all take precautions to limit the spread.

What improvised face covering should I wear? Whatever one works and fits you best, as long as it follows the basic design principles provided by our medical team and the CDC. Below are some helpful links for designs and information on caring for your new face covering. In addition, our medical advisors recommend face shields be accompanied by cloth face

coverings, where medically possible. Keep in mind, FDA regulated PPE is currently in short supply and should be reserved for those working on the front line to combat this disease. They need it constantly and more than we do. However, there are several alternatives to protecting yourself.

Click [HERE](#) for more information on face coverings, including basic design principles, type of face covering you should wear, and how to care for your face covering.

Additional Resources

- [CDC Guidance - Use of Cloth Face Covering to Help Slow Spread of COVID-19](#)
- [CDC Recommends Wearing Cloth Face Covering in Public Setting where other social distancing measures are difficult to maintain](#)
- [Masks and Coronavirus Disease 2019 \(COVID-19\)](#)



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Nevada Medical Advisory Team:
What does the science say about face coverings?

- Research is still being conducted on whether improvised facial coverings prevent exposure to COVID-19, but it has been established that face coverings can reduce the spread of the virus from infected symptomatic and asymptomatic individuals.
- People can be contagious before the onset of symptoms. Proper coverage of the nose and mouth is a critical component in decreasing the risk of spreading or contracting COVID-19. (Anifinrud, Stadnytski, Bax & Bax, 2020)
- People who are asymptomatic or pre-symptomatic can spread the virus and, when combined with social distancing and other preventative measures, face coverings can offer additional protection to the public. Face coverings protect both the wearer and individuals the wearer may interact with either directly or indirectly while in a public space. (Davies, 2020)
- Even with a face covering, it is still important to maintain social distancing and good hand hygiene protocols. These efforts, in combination with face covering when you have to go out in public, are shown to help slow the spread of COVID-19.
- COVID-19 is highly contagious and while the science is not yet definitive, and we are learning more each day, facial coverings reduce the chance of transmission and protect everyone against infection. (MacIntyre, Zhang & Chughtai, 2016)
- The face covering must cover the nose and mouth and it is important that the wearer does not touch their face covering, as the virus could be transferred to their hands. (CDC)

- The main role of a face covering is to reduce the release of infectious particles into the air when a person speaks, coughs, or sneezes. While no one single intervention offers complete protection, -when combined with proper handwashing, social distancing and staying home when sick, face coverings can reduce the spread of COVID-19 in communities. (CDC)
- The current evidence suggests that COVID-19 is most commonly spread by respiratory droplets, especially when people cough and sneeze, entering through the eyes, nose, and mouth, either directly or by touching a contaminated surface. The risk of contracting COVID-19 is reduced when both the infected person, and those around them, are wearing a face covering. (Anifinrud, Stadnytski, Bax & Bax, 2020)
- A study the spread of COVID19 show that if only 50 percent of a population wears a face covering, it will not be sufficient to prevent continue spread, and that if 80 percent of a population donned a face covering, there's a substantial reduction in infection. (Kai, Goldstein, Morgunov, Nangalia, Rotkirch, 2020)

Sources:

[Anfinrud P, Stadnytski V, Bax CE, Bax A. 2020 Visualizing Speech-Generated Oral Fluid Droplets with Laser Light Scattering. New England Journal of Medicine \(doi: 10.1056/NEJMc2007800\)](#)

[Davies A et al. 2013 Testing the efficacy of homemade masks: would they protect in an influenza pandemic?. Disaster Medicine and Public Health Preparedness \(doi: 10.1017/dmp.2013.43\).](#)

[Kai, Goldstein, Morgunov, Nangalia, Rotkirch, et al. 2020 Universal Masking is Urgent in the COVID-19 Pandemic: SEIR and Agent Based Models, Empirical Validation, Policy Recommendations, arXiv:2004.13553 \[physics.soc-ph\]](#)

[MacIntyre C, Zhang Y, Chughtai A, et al. 2016. Cluster randomised controlled trial to examine medical mask use as source control for people with respiratory illness. BMJ Open \(doi: 10.1136/bmjopen-2016-012330\)](#)



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El Equipo Asesor Medico de Nevada:
¿Qué es lo que dice la ciencia sobre las cubiertas faciales?

- Aun se están haciendo investigaciones para determinar si las cubiertas faciales que son improvisadas previenen la exposición al COVID-19, pero si esta establecido que las cubiertas faciales pueden ayudar a reducir la propagación del virus de aquellos individuos quienes están infectados y son sintomáticos y asintomáticos.
- Las personas pueden ser contagiosas antes de que presenten síntomas. Cubrir la nariz y boca correctamente es un componente crucial para disminuir el riesgo de propagar o contraer COVID-19. (Anifinrud, Stadnytski, Bax & Bax, 2020)
- Las personas quienes son asintomáticas o presintomáticas pueden propagar el virus, y cuando se combina con el distanciamiento social y otras medidas preventivas, las cubiertas faciales proveen protección adicional al público. Las cubiertas faciales protegen a la persona usando una cubierta facial y a las personas quienes interactúan con la persona usando la cubierta facial, directa o indirectamente mientras están en un espacio público. (Davies, 2020)
- Aunque estén usando una cubierta facial, aun es importante mantener el distanciamiento social y los protocolos de buena higiene de lavado de manos. Estos esfuerzos, en combinación con una cubierta facial cuando tenga que salir en público, han demostrado ayudan a lentificar la propagación de COVID-19.
- COVID-19 es altamente contagioso y mientras la ciencia aun no es definitiva, y estamos aprendiendo cada día más, las cubiertas faciales

reducen la oportunidad de transmisión y protegen a todos contra la infección. (MacIntyre, Zhang & Chughtai, 2016)

- Las cubiertas faciales deben cubrir la nariz y la boca y es importante que la persona con cubierta facial no se toque la cubierta, porque el virus puede ser transferido a sus manos. (CDC)
- La función principal de una cubierta facial es reducir la expulsión de partículas infecciosas al aire cuando una persona habla, tose, u estornuda. Mientras no hay una sola intervención que ofrece protección total, cuando se combina con lavarse las manos correctamente, distanciamiento social, y quedarse en casa cuando se sienta enfermo, las cubiertas faciales pueden reducir la propagación del COVID-19 en las comunidades. (CDC)
- La evidencia actual sugiere que el COVID-19 es mas comúnmente propagado por gotas respiratorias, especialmente cuando las personas tosen y estornudan, entrando por los ojos, la nariz, la boca, ya sea directamente o al tocar una superficie contaminada. El riesgo de contraer COVID-19 es reducido cuando ambas personas, la infectada y aquellas personas a su alrededor usan una cubierta facial. (Anfinrud, Stadnytski, Bax & Bax, 2020)
- Un estudio sobre la propagación de COVID-19, mostro que, si solo el 50 por ciento de la población usa una cubierta facial, no será suficiente para prevenir la propagación, y que, si el 80 por ciento de la población se pone una cubierta facial, hay una reducción substancial de la infección. (Anfinrud, Stadnytski, Bax & Bax, 2020)

Recursos:

[Anfinrud P, Stadnytskyi V, Bax CE, Bax A. 2020 Visualizing Speech-Generated Oral Fluid Droplets with Laser Light Scattering. New England Journal of Medicine \(doi: 10.1056/NEJMc2007800\)](https://doi.org/10.1056/NEJMc2007800)

[Davies A et al. 2013 Testing the efficacy of homemade masks: would they protect in an influenza pandemic?. Disaster Medicine and Public Health Preparedness \(doi: 10.1017/dmp.2013.43\).](#)

[Kai, Goldstein, Morgunov, Nangalia, Rotkirch, et al. 2020 Universal Masking is Urgent in the COVID-19 Pandemic: SEIR and Agent Based Models, Empirical Validation, Policy Recommendations, arXiv:2004.13553 \[physics.soc-ph\]](#)

[MacIntyre C, Zhang Y, Chughtai A, et al. 2016. Cluster randomised controlled trial to examine medical mask use as source control for people with respiratory illness. BMJ Open \(doi: 10.1136/bmjopen-2016-012330](#)



DECLARATION OF EMERGENCY

DIRECTIVE 024

WHEREAS, in late 2019, the United States Centers for Disease Control and Prevention began monitoring an outbreak of respiratory illness caused by a novel coronavirus first identified in Wuhan, Hubei Province, China; and

WHEREAS, on February 11, 2020, the International Committee on Taxonomy of Viruses named this novel coronavirus "severe acute respiratory syndrome coronavirus 2 (SARS-CoV-2);" and

WHEREAS, on February 11, 2020, the World Health Organization named the disease caused by SARS-CoV-2, "COVID-19;" and

WHEREAS, the World Health Organization advises that the novel coronavirus that causes COVID-19 virus is highly contagious, and spreads through respiratory transmission, and direct and indirect contact with infected persons and surfaces; and

WHEREAS, the World Health Organization advises that respiratory transmission occurs through both droplet and airborne transmission, where droplet transmission occurs when a person is within 6 feet of someone who has respiratory symptoms like coughing or sneezing, and airborne transmission may occur when aerosolized particles remain suspended in the air and is inhaled; and

WHEREAS, the World Health Organization advises that contact transmission occurs by direct contact with infected people or indirect contact with surfaces contaminated by the novel coronavirus; and

WHEREAS, some persons with COVID-19 may exhibit no symptoms but remain highly infectious; and

WHEREAS, on March 5, 2020, Clark County and Washoe County both reported the first known cases of COVID-19 in the State of Nevada; and

WHEREAS, on March 11, 2020, the World Health Organization declared COVID-19 a pandemic; and

WHEREAS, on March 12, 2020, I, Steve Sisolak, Governor of the State of Nevada issued a Declaration of Emergency to facilitate the State’s response to the COVID-19 pandemic; and

WHEREAS, on March 13, 2020, Donald J. Trump, President of the United States declared a nationwide emergency pursuant to Sec. 501(b) of the Robert T. Stafford Disaster Relief and Emergency Assistance Act, 42 U.S.C. 5121-5207 (the “Stafford Act”); and

WHEREAS, on March 14, 2020, I formed a medical advisory team to provide medical guidance and scientifically based recommendations on measures Nevada could implement to better contain and mitigate the spread of COVID-19; and

WHEREAS, infectious disease and public health experts advised that minimizing interpersonal contact slows the rate at which the disease spreads, and is necessary to avoid overwhelming healthcare systems, commonly referred to as “flattening the curve”; and

WHEREAS, since the March 12, 2020 Declaration of Emergency, I have issued 23 Directives pursuant to that order to provide for the safety, wellbeing, and public health of Nevadans and the administration of the State of Nevada; and

WHEREAS, these Directives were promulgated to reduce interpersonal contact and promote social distancing to flatten the curve; and

WHEREAS, data showed that Nevada was one of the top five states in the United States for social distancing; and

WHEREAS, Nevada’s medical experts indicate that the rate at which COVID-19 is spreading in the State of Nevada has effectively slowed to a level that does not jeopardize the state’s healthcare system due, in part, to Nevadans following strict social distancing measures individually and pursuant to Directives I issued pursuant to the March 12, 2020, Declaration of Emergency; and

WHEREAS, although the danger to Nevadans from the COVID-19 disease has abated, the disease has not been eliminated and measures that protect safety, wellbeing, and public health of Nevadans must remain in effect; and

WHEREAS, on April 21, 2020, the National Governors Association issued guidance for a staged reopening that protects the public’s health while laying a strong foundation for long-term economic recovery; and

WHEREAS, on April 30, 2020, I introduced the *Nevada United: Roadmap to Recovery* plan that outlined a phased approach to reopening Nevada businesses and industry; and

WHEREAS, the *Nevada United: Roadmap to Recovery* plan set forth a collaborative partnership between state and local governments that included the formation of the Local Empowerment Advisory Panel (“LEAP”) to serve as a resource to local governments and local communities; and

WHEREAS, on May 9, 2020, the State of Nevada entered Phase One of the *Nevada United: Roadmap to Recovery* plan; and

WHEREAS, on May 29, 2020, the State of Nevada entered Phase Two of the *Nevada United: Roadmap to Recovery* plan; and

WHEREAS, prior to entering Phase Two, Nevada experienced a consistent and sustainable downward trajectory in the percentage of positive COVID-19 cases, a decrease in the trend of COVID-19 hospitalizations, and a decline in our cumulative test positivity rate from a maximum rate of 12.2% on April 24, 2020 to 6.3% on May 27, 2020 with a 33-day downward trend; and

WHEREAS, as of June 22, 2020, the seven-day average of daily new COVID-19 cases in the United States has increased over 30 percent versus one week prior; and

WHEREAS, the State of Nevada is experiencing an increase in both its cumulative test positivity rate and its seven-day moving average of daily new COVID-19 cases; and

WHEREAS, the State of Nevada is experiencing an increasing trend of hospitalizations for confirmed COVID-19 cases since May 31, 2020; and

WHEREAS, infection diseases scientists and experts advise that “masks indisputably protect individuals against airborne transmission of respiratory diseases;” and

WHEREAS, infection diseases scientists and experts advise that “universal masking at 80% adoption [] flattens the curve significantly more than maintaining a strict lock-down,” and “masking at only 50% adoption [] is not sufficient to prevent continued spread” of COVID-19; and

WHEREAS, the Governor’s COVID-19 Medical Advisory Team advises that “a mouth-and-nose lockdown is far more sustainable than a full-body lockdown;” and

WHEREAS, NRS 414.060 outlines powers and duties delegated to the Governor during the existence of a state of emergency, including without limitation, directing and controlling the conduct of the general public and the movement and cessation of movement of pedestrians and vehicular traffic during, before and after exercises or an emergency or disaster, public meetings or gatherings; and

WHEREAS, NRS 414.070 outlines additional powers delegated to the Governor during the existence of a state of emergency, including without limitation, enforcing all laws and regulations relating to emergency management and assuming direct operational control of any or all forces, including, without limitation, volunteers and auxiliary staff for emergency management in the State; providing for and compelling the evacuation of all or part of the population from any stricken or threatened area or areas within the State and to take such steps as are necessary for the receipt and care of those persons; and performing and exercising such other functions, powers and duties as are necessary to promote and secure the safety and protection of the civilian population; and

WHEREAS, the Nevada Attorney General opined in Opinion Number 95-03 that in times of emergency when the Governor’s authority under Nevada Revised Statutes Chapter 414 is in effect, the powers of political subdivisions to control business activity is limited; and

WHEREAS, NRS 414.060(3)(f) provides that the administrative authority vested to the Governor in times of emergency may be delegated; and

WHEREAS, Article 5, Section 1 of the Nevada Constitution provides: “The supreme executive power of this State, shall be vested in a Chief Magistrate who shall be Governor of the State of Nevada;” and

NOW THEREFORE, by the authority vested in me as Governor by the Constitution and the laws of the State of Nevada and the United States, and pursuant to the March 12, 2020, Emergency Declaration,

IT IS HEREBY ORDERED THAT:

SECTION 1: To the extent this Directive conflicts with earlier Directives or regulations promulgated pursuant to the March 12, 2020 Declaration of Emergency, the provisions of this Directive shall prevail. Provisions of all other effective Directives not in conflict with this Directive shall remain in effect.

SECTION 2: Consistent with the *Nevada United: Roadmap to Recovery* plan for a federally supported, state managed, and locally executed reopening approach, county governments and local municipalities are hereby delegated the authority to impose additional COVID-19 related restrictions on businesses and public activities. Restrictions imposed by county government or local municipalities may exceed the standards imposed by Declaration of Emergency Directives or set forth under the LEAP guidelines, but in no case shall county-guidelines be more permissive than the provisions of this Directive.

SECTION 3: Businesses may adopt practices that exceed the standards imposed by Declaration of Emergency Directives, guidelines promulgated by the Nevada State Occupational Safety and Health Administration (NV OSHA) or LEAP guidelines, but in no case shall business practices be more permissive than the provisions of this Directive or those imposed by NV OSHA and the LEAP.

SECTION 4: For the purposes of this Directive, “face covering” is defined as covering that fully covers a person’s nose and mouth, including without limitation, cloth face masks, surgical masks, towels, scarves, and bandanas. This Directive shall not be construed to require the public to wear medical-grade masks, including masks rated N95, KN95, and their equivalent or better.

SECTION 5: Individuals not exempted by this Directive or guidance issued by the Nevada Health Response shall be required to cover their nose and mouth with a mask or face covering when in a public space, whether publicly owned or privately owned where the public has access by right or invitation, express or implied, whether by payment of money or not.

SECTION 6: Businesses operating during Phase Two of the *Nevada United: Roadmap to Recovery* plan shall ensure that all patrons, customers, patients, or clients utilize face coverings, subject to the guidelines that shall be promulgated pursuant to this Directive, including prohibiting persons without face coverings from entering the premises.

SECTION 7: The mandatory provisions of this Directive shall not apply to:

- (1) Children who are nine years of age, or younger. Children who are two to nine years of age are strongly encouraged to wear face coverings in public spaces.
- (2) Individuals experiencing homelessness. Such individuals are encouraged to take protective measures to the greatest extent practicable.
- (3) Individuals who cannot wear a face covering due to a medical condition or disability, or who are unable to remove a mask without assistance. Persons exempted under this provision should wear a non-restrictive alternative, such as a face shield. Persons exempted under this provision shall not be required to produce documentation verifying the condition.
- (4) Individuals for whom wearing a face covering would create a risk to the person related to their work, as determined by local, state, or federal regulators or workplace safety guidelines.
- (5) Individuals who are obtaining a service involving the nose or face for which the temporary removal of the face covering is necessary to perform that service.
- (6) Individuals who are seated at a restaurant or other establishment that offers food or beverage services, while they are eating or drinking, provided that they are able to maintain a distance of at least six feet away from persons who are not members of the same household or residence.
- (7) Individuals who are engaged in outdoor work or recreation such as swimming, walking, hiking, bicycling, or running, when alone or with household members, and when they are able to maintain a distance of at least six feet from others.
- (8) Individuals who are incarcerated. Prisons and jails, as part of their mitigation plans, will have specific guidance on the wearing of face coverings or masks for both inmates and staff.

SECTION 8: NV OSHA shall enforce all violations of its guidelines, protocols, and regulations promulgated pursuant to this Directive. State licensing boards are hereby directed to enforce all provisions of this Directive against licensees and establishments within their purview and impose disciplinary measures against licensees who violate this Directive.

SECTION 9: Any individual who does not comply with Section 5 of this Directive, after receiving notice from law enforcement, may be subject to criminal prosecution and civil penalties under NRS 199.280, NRS 202.450, and any other applicable statute, regulation, or ordinance. All law enforcement agencies in the State of Nevada are authorized to enforce this Directive. The Office of the Attorney General is given concurrent jurisdiction to prosecute violations of this Directive.

SECTION 10: Pursuant to NRS 414.060(3)(f), I hereby authorize all local, city, and county governments, and state agencies to enforce this Directive and regulations promulgated thereunder, including but not limited to, suspending licenses, revoking licenses, or issuing penalties for violating business, professional, liquor, tobacco, or gaming licenses issued by the local jurisdiction for actions that jeopardize the health, safety, or welfare of the public; conduct which may injuriously affect the public health, safety, or welfare; conduct that may be detrimental to the public peace, health, or morals; or any other applicable ordinance or requirement for such a license.

SECTION 11: The State of Nevada shall retain all authority vested in the Governor pursuant to NRS Chapter 414.

SECTION 12: This Directive is effective at 11:59 p.m. on Thursday, June 25, 2020 and shall remain in effect until terminated by a subsequent Directive promulgated pursuant to the March 12, 2020 Declaration of Emergency to facilitate the State's response to the COVID-19 pandemic.

IN WITNESS WHEREOF, I have hereunto set my hand and caused the Great Seal of the State of Nevada to be affixed at the State Capitol in Carson City, this 24th day of June, in the year two thousand twenty.



Governor of the State of Nevada

Barbara K. Cegansky

Secretary of State

Deputy Secretary of State