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# MINERAL COUNTY COVID-19 MITIGATION AND MANAGEMENT PLAN

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AS THE WORLD CONTINUES TO RESPOND TO THE COVID-19 PANDEMIC. THE STATE OF NEVADA REMAINS UNDER A STATE OF EMERGENCY AS DECLARED BY THE GOVERNOR OF NEVADA, AND MINERAL COUNTY REMAINS UNDER A DECLARED EMERGENCY AS DECLARED BY THE BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS. THIS PLAN ESTABLISHES MINERAL COUNTY'S CONTINUED RESPONSE, MITIGATION, AND MANAGEMENT EFFORTS FOR COVID-19 UNDER THE GOVERNOR'S DELEGATION OF AUTHORITY RECEIVED ON, OR AFTER, MAY 1ST, 2021.

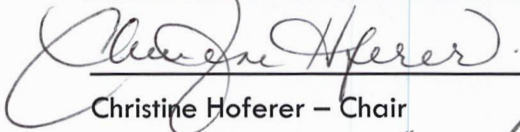


APRIL 21, 2021

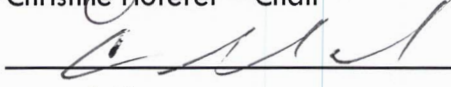
## Signatures and Indorsements

This plan has been reviewed and accepted by the following local and state entities and will become effective as of May 1, 2021 pending receipt of delegation of authority from the Nevada State Governor.

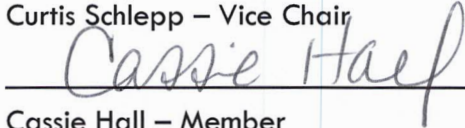
### Mineral County Board of Commissioners



Christine Hoferer – Chair

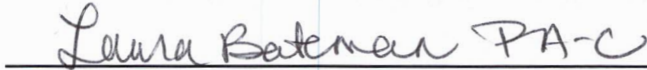


Curtis Schlepp – Vice Chair



Cassie Hall – Member

### Mineral County Health Authority



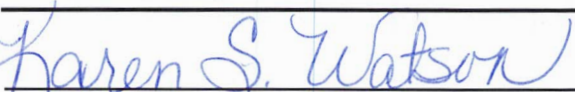
Laura Bateman, PA-C – Local Health Authority

### Mt. Grant General Hospital



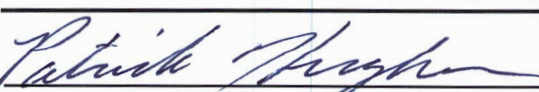
Hugh Qualls – Administrator

### Mineral County School District



Karen Watson – Superintendent

### Mineral County Office of Emergency Management



Patrick Hughes – Mineral County Emergency Manager



**NEVADA RURAL  
HOSPITAL PARTNERS**

*An alliance of  
rural hospitals*

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**Joan Hall**  
*President*

**NRHP & Foundation  
Members**

Banner Churchill Comm. Hospital  
Fallon, Nevada

Battle Mountain General Hospital  
Battle Mountain, Nevada

Boulder City Hospital  
Boulder City, Nevada

Carson Valley Medical Center  
Gardnerville, Nevada

Grover C. Dils Medical Center  
Caliente, Nevada

Humboldt General Hospital  
Winnemucca, Nevada  
Incline Village Comm. Hospital  
Incline Village, Nevada

Mt. Grant General Hospital  
Hawthorne, Nevada

Pershing General Hospital  
Lovelock, Nevada

South Lyon Medical Center  
Yerington, Nevada

William Bee Ririe Hospital  
Ely, Nevada

**NRHP Foundation  
Associate Member**

Desert View Hospital  
Pahrump, Nevada

April 19, 2021

Patrick Hughes  
Mineral County Emergency Manager  
Mineral County Office of Emergency Management  
P.O. Box 1301  
525 West 9<sup>th</sup> Street  
Hawthorne, NV 89415

In Governor Sisolak's "Nevada's Roadmap to Recovery Transition Plan" released on March 15, 2021, county government plans were to receive endorsement by various agencies. Nevada Rural Hospital Partners (NRHP) appreciates the ability to review your local plan.

NRHP determined that to receive our endorsement, certain elements must be included in a plan. These include the following:

- Monitoring county test positivity rates
- An emphasis on vaccinating the public
- Monitoring local hospital capacity status
- Monitoring local PPE sufficiency
- Emphasis on protecting vulnerable populations

After a review of the Mineral County plans, NRHP is providing you with this letter of endorsement. Please note that NRHP is not a governmental agency and cannot usurp the authority of local elected officials.

Sincerely,

Joan S. Hall, R.N.  
President



## OVERVIEW:

The State of Nevada remains under an emergency as declared by the Governor. This declaration allows the state and its partners to respond to the global pandemic, as well as to seek federal resources and reimbursement for actions taken to protect the health of the residents and visitors of our state. This statewide emergency will remain in place for the foreseeable future, which will allow state and local partners to collaborate in addressing the challenges presented by this pandemic.

On February 14, 2021, Governor Sisolak unveiled Nevada's Roadmap to Recovery, which provides his plan to reduce current statewide COVID-19 mitigation measures and transition certain mitigation measures to local authority. Per the Governor's Emergency Directive 037, this will occur in a phased approach, with transition to local authority happening on May 1, 2021 at the earliest.

As with every step of Nevada's statewide response to date, Nevada's Roadmap to Recovery will continue to ensure that Nevada's response to the COVID-19 pandemic remains federally supported, state managed, and locally executed. As outlined below, this means that each aspect of response and recovery efforts, to include vaccine distribution, will align with federal, state, and local disaster response and recovery plans.

The State of Nevada will provide a critical role in coordinating Nevada's response and recovery efforts throughout the remainder of the disaster as well. State government will continue to manage statewide vaccine distribution, receipt, and distribution of federal funding, testing and contact tracing resources, or any other pandemic-related activities that require statewide management. It is important to note that the current pandemic remains a statewide and nationwide emergency that requires an emergency management response. Through this approach, and as described below, local government will be delegated authority from the State to implement localized mitigation and enforcement measures.

In addition to working with federal partners, the State will also be responsible for maintaining essential baseline mitigation measures that will remain in place. Even after May 1, 2021, the following baseline mitigation measures will remain in place and will continue to be enforced by the State:

- Statewide mask requirement as outlined in Directive 024.
- School reopening and operational requirements as outlined in Directives 022, 028, and 038.
- Crisis Standards of Care as outlined in Directive 011.
- Additionally, industries regulated by the state, whether through professional licensing boards covered in Title 54 of the Nevada Revised Statutes, through state agencies, or through independent regulatory bodies such as the Gaming Control Board, will continue to follow the statewide baseline standards for COVID-19 mitigation measures and any mitigation measures promulgated by their respective regulatory bodies.

In accordance with the National Response Framework and Chapter 414 of the Nevada Revised Statutes, the State defines local partners as county governments working in partnership with incorporated cities, school districts, health districts or authorities, and in some cases, with tribal governments. While it is the Governor's intent for this delegation of authority to remain in place throughout the remainder of the emergency declaration, factors such as increased viral spread, the unknown nature of various variants,

and otherwise could result in increased baseline mitigation measures, or the State resuming control of some or all mitigation measures.

County governments will continue to respond to the public health crisis and continue to execute vaccination efforts. In order to receive the delegation of authority regarding specific local mitigation measures on May 1, each county must develop a full Local Mitigation and Enforcement Plan that aligns with the template provided by the State and meets the requirements of the State level approval and review process as described in the “Nevada’s Roadmap to Recovery – Transition Plan” and Directive 041.

The following plan is the result of a collaborative effort by Mineral County, the Mineral County Health Authority, the Mineral County School District, the Nevada Rural Hospital Association, and input from local businesses and industries. The plan outlines the local approach to mitigation, management, and enforcement related to the COVID-19 Pandemic after the receipt of a delegation of authority from the Governor on or around May 1<sup>st</sup>, 2021.

This plan contains information on Mineral County’s response as pertaining to COVID-19 Monitoring Efforts, Mitigation Measures, Enforcement Measures, and Public Information Efforts.



## **PLAN:**

### **MONITORING:**

Monitoring of the COVID-19 virus is a collective effort of the Mineral County Health Authority, Mineral County Health Nurses Office, and Mt. Grant General Hospital (our only Hospital in Mineral County). These entities work their State level counterparts, and collaboratively, to monitor and determine the nature of the virus within our communities (location, severity, occurrence, etc.), to provide testing and vaccinations, to establish protection measures for our vulnerable populations, and monitor and manage hospital capacity and needs to ensure proper protection and response to cases within Mineral County.

#### **Testing:**

- Testing is provided by the local Health Nurse and Mt. Grant General Hospital. Large scale POD events are provided by the Local Health Authority with assistance from the above-mentioned entities and local volunteers. Testing is performed in accordance with State and Federal guidelines. Mineral County has seen a significant reduction in need for general testing and mostly tests in response to identified exposure events, however anyone wanting to be tested is never turned away.

#### **Vaccinations:**

- The Hospital, Health Nurse, and local Safeway Pharmacy all provide vaccination services to Mineral County Residents, and vaccinations are available to anyone 16 years or older within Mineral County. Mineral County entities follow state guidelines and standards pertaining to vaccinations. The only hindrance to this process in Mineral County is the small weekly allocations, but we will continue to operate accordingly.

#### **Contact tracing:**

- Contact Tracing efforts are run through our local Health Authority, and people have been hired and trained to provide this service. Measures are in place should the need for more personnel be needed.

### **MITIGATION MEASURES:**

#### **BASELINE MITIGATION MEASURES:**

In accordance with the State, Mineral County will follow the baseline mitigation standards as follows:

- Statewide mask requirement as outlined in Directive 024.
- School reopening and operational requirements as outlined in Directives 022, 028, and 038.
- Crisis Standards of Care as outlined in Directive 011.
- Additionally, industries regulated by the state, whether through professional licensing boards covered in Title 54 of the Nevada Revised Statutes, through state agencies, or through independent regulatory bodies such as the Gaming Control Board, will continue to follow the

statewide baseline standards for COVID-19 mitigation measures and any mitigation measures promulgated by their respective regulatory bodies.

**In addition to the baseline standards the following shall also be followed:**

**PUBLIC GATHERINGS AND EVENTS**

- Should follow current CDC and state guidelines.

*(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 whenever possible.)*

**PRIVATE GATHERINGS AND EVENTS**

- Should follow current CDC and state guidelines.

**YOUTH AND ADULT RECREATIONAL 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.)*

➤ **TOURNAMENTS**

- ❖ Tournaments will be permitted within Mineral County for permissible sports (pursuant to Directive 034). Tournaments must be approved by applicable Local and/or State authorities prior to competitions beginning through submission of a Large Gathering Plan.
- ❖ The number 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 Large Gathering Plan.

➤ **ALLOWED AND NOT ALLOWED SPORTS**

- ❖ Allowed/Not Allowed Sports will be determined in consideration of the most current version of the "Nevada Guidance for Adult & Youth Sports".
  - ❖ Currently Allowed:
    - Minimal-Contact Sports (baseball, softball, soccer, volleyball, lacrosse, etc.)
    - Non-Contact Sports (golf, tennis, running, track and field, skiing/snowboarding, etc.)
  - ❖ Currently Not Allowed:
    - Full Contact Sports (football, rugby, wrestling, basketball, etc.)
- These guidelines will be readdressed as needed.



## INDUSTRY-SPECIFIC GUIDANCE (IN ADDITION TO THE BASELINE GUIDANCES LISTED ABOVE)

COUNTY OFFICES/DEPARTMENTS	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>➤ May institute stricter measures in addition to the base line mandates according to internal safety policies as deemed appropriate.</li> </ul>
<b>FOOD &amp; BEVERAGE ESTABLISHMENTS:</b> 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.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>➤ May institute stricter measures in addition to the base line mandates according to internal safety policies as the establishment deems appropriate.</li> </ul>
<b>PLACES OF WORSHIP:</b> Mitigation measures, including but not limited to capacity, for houses of worship must not be more restrictive than mitigation measures for similar gatherings or businesses.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>➤ Individual faith organizations may institute stricter measures in accordance with the "Nevada COVID-19 Safety Guidance for Places of Worship".</li> </ul>
GYMS, FITNESS/DANCE/YOGA STUDIOS, MARTIAL ARTS STUDIOS & SIMILAR ESTABLISHMENTS	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>➤ May institute stricter measures in addition to the base line mandates according to internal safety policies as the establishment deems appropriate.</li> </ul>
GAMING FLOORS	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>➤ Capacity and mitigation measures for gaming areas will <b>NOT</b> transition to local control after May 1 and will remain under the authority of the <b>Nevada Gaming Control Board</b>. Uniform, statewide mitigation measures will continue to apply to gaming areas.</li> </ul>
LIBRARIES, MUSEUMS, ART GALLERIES, AQUARIUMS & ZOOS	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>➤ May institute stricter measures in addition to the base line mandates according to internal safety policies as the establishment deems appropriate.</li> </ul>
<b>SPAS, MASSAGE THERAPY &amp; MASSAGE ESTABLISHMENTS</b> (Industries regulated by professional licensing boards covered in Title 54 of the Nevada Revised Statutes will continue to follow the statewide baseline standards for COVID-19 mitigation measures and any mitigation measures promulgated by their respective regulatory bodies, in addition to local measures.)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>➤ May operate under existing Directives and protocols established by the <b>Nevada State Board of Cosmetology and Nevada State Board of Massage Therapy</b>.</li> <li>➤ May institute stricter measures in addition to the base line mandates according to internal safety policies as the establishment deems appropriate.</li> </ul>
<b>HAIR SALONS, BARBERSHOPS, NAIL SALONS &amp; BUSINESSES THAT PROVIDE AESTHETIC SKIN SERVICES</b> (Industries regulated by professional licensing boards covered in Title 54 of the Nevada Revised Statutes will continue to follow the statewide baseline standards for COVID-	Capacity: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>➤ May operate under existing Directives and protocols established by the <b>Nevada State Board of Cosmetology and Nevada Barbers' Health and Sanitation Board, as applicable</b></li> </ul>



19 mitigation measures and any mitigation measures promulgated by their respective regulatory bodies, in addition to local measures.)	➤ May institute stricter measures in addition to the base line mandates according to internal safety policies as the establishment deems appropriate.
RETAIL STORES	➤ May institute stricter measures in addition to the base line mandates according to internal safety policies as the establishment deems appropriate.
COMMUNITY & RECREATIONAL CENTERS	➤ May institute stricter measures in addition to the base line mandates according to internal safety policies as the establishment deems appropriate.
Brothels	➤ May institute stricter measures in addition to the base line mandates according to internal safety policies as the establishment deems appropriate.

### **Enforcement Measures:**

Enforcement of the guidelines and directives listed in this plan will be the responsibility of the Mineral County Sheriff's Office as they are the primary enforcement agency for Mineral County.

### **Public Information Efforts:**

#### **Public Health and Vaccination Promotion Efforts:**

Mineral County has limited avenues that can be utilized to fulfill these efforts. Below are options that are utilized:

- Social Media: Primarily Facebook, as that is the predominate social media platform used by Mineral County residents.
- The Mineral County Website
- The Independent News: a local newspaper that publishes once a week.
- Flyers posted throughout the communities of Mineral County.

### **Resource Needs:**

Mineral County Departments/Offices, Mt. Grant General Hospital, Mineral County School District, will monitor their PPE levels and order supplies to meet their needs. Mineral County Emergency Management will be notified of any PPE or needs that the individual entities are unable to obtain and will attempt to fill those needs through the appropriate processes.