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**Department of Health and
Human Services**

COVID-19 Briefing

Division of Public and Behavioral Health



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Helping people. It's who we are and what we do.



10 Essential Public Health Services

1. Assess and monitor population health status, factors that influence health, and community needs and assets
2. Investigate, diagnose, and address health problems and hazards affecting the population
3. Communicate effectively to inform and educate people about health, factors that influence it, and how to improve it
4. Strengthen, support, and mobilize communities and partnerships to improve health
5. Create, champion, and implement policies, plans, and laws that impact health
6. Utilize legal and regulatory actions designed to improve and protect the public's health
7. Assure an effective system that enables equitable access to the individual services and care needed to be healthy
8. Build and support a diverse and skilled public health workforce
9. Improve and innovate public health functions through ongoing evaluation, research, and continuous quality improvement
10. Build and maintain a strong organizational infrastructure for public health





Public Health in Nevada

- **Many sections, but as it relates to COVID:**

- NRS 439: Public Health and Safety

- Health Districts and District Health Officers
- County Boards of Health and County Health Officers
- City Boards of Health and Health Officers
- Nevada Division of Public and Behavioral Health
 - Board of Nevada
 - Chief Medical Officer

- Assessments

- County may submit a proposal to have the county carry out the services of DPBH and the Chief Medical Officer.
- Governor approval and IFC approval.
- A county that receives approval pursuant to subsection 3 to carry out the services that would otherwise be provided by the Division or the Chief Medical Officer pursuant to this chapter and chapters 441A, 444, 446 and 583 of NRS and the regulations adopted pursuant to those chapters shall carry out those services in the manner set forth in those chapters and regulations.



Infectious Disease Response

- NRS/NAC 441A: Infectious Diseases
 - Health authorities: Southern Nevada Health District and Washoe County Health District
 - All other counties fall under the authority of the Chief Medical Officer and the Division of Public and Behavioral Health
 - Duties can be delegated
 - This is temporary delegation as opposed to the process in NRS 439.
 - Ex: delegation to Carson City Health and Human Services for support to surrounding counties
 - Ex: delegation for certain COVID response to County Health Officers
 - Initially, some counties did not have active County Boards of Health and had not identified a County Health Officer.
 - However, in some counties, there were active County Boards of Health and County Health Officers who were already active in public health efforts in the counties.
 - Learning curves and resources were different
 - Challenge with turnover in County Health Officers



Pre-COVID

- SNHD, WCHD, and CCHHS functioned independently and as a partner in public health matters.
- Several rural/frontier counties were actively pursuing plans to become county/regional health departments.
- There was no movement in some counties to build local control; DPBH was in place to support public health.
- Bifurcated system with hope to move to a decentralized system in the future.
- Funding was the primary issue
 - Public Health Improvement Fund
 - Dependence on federal funding



COVID

- Delegation
- Local infrastructure opportunities



Post-COVID

- NACO Public Health Position
 - Assess needs, policy options, funding = sustainability
- Local structure; regionalization
 - Churchill
 - Elko
 - Formalize the quad-county structure (if there is interest)
 - Provide TA to counties (Dr. Packham; UNR)

COVID as an Endemic Disease

- Primary Prevention

- The goal of primary prevention is to prevent illness and spread. This entails employing mitigation efforts that reduce or eliminate the risk of contracting COVID-19.
 - Vaccination; Cocooning
 - Physical mitigation

- Secondary Prevention

- The goal of secondary prevention is to identify when an individual has COVID-19 as quickly as possible to stop the spread of the infection to others.
 - Testing
 - Disease investigation
 - Exposure notification

- Tertiary Prevention

- Tertiary prevention aims to reduce the outcome of severe disease or death once an individual has contracted the disease.
 - Treatment (monoclonal antibody treatment)
 - Hospital capacity