

## Weekly Wrap Up - Week 47

In this issue: COVID-19 hospitalizations are decreasing across much of the state as new treatments are about to become available. Hospitals are reporting sporadic supply shortages. Neighboring states sue to stop the CMS vaccine mandate and, there is no end in sight for daily hospital status reporting.



Week 47

	PPE	Supplies	Vents	Staffing	% of Patients in the hospital with COVID	% of Patients in the ICUs with COVID	Hosp. Occupancy Rates (All-Hazard)	ICU Occupancy Rates (All-Hazard)
<b>NORTH</b>	Green	Yellow	Green	Red	Yellow	Yellow	Orange	Orange
<b>SOUTH</b>	Green	Yellow	Green	Red	Yellow	Yellow	Yellow	Yellow
<b>RURAL</b>	Green	Yellow	Green	Red	Yellow	Yellow	Yellow	Yellow

**What Does This Mean ?**  
The table visually communicates the relative level of concern being experienced within the hospital infrastructure. This table aggregates individual hospital reporting, discussions with hospital leaders and effect of mitigation measures being employed.

No Concern	Watch	Warning	Alert	Crisis
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**No Concern**, hospitals are functioning in a conventional manner. **Watch**, we are studying the various metrics and mitigation controls to manage hospital operations. **Warning**, hospitals are employing mitigation methods and using various contingencies to manage upward trends. **Alert**, immediate additional mitigation methods are required to keep the hospital system operational. **Crisis**, hospitals are experiencing conditions that limit the ability to provide adequate patient care.

**Risk Table Highlights:** The only new appreciable change to the regional hospital status since our last report in week 45 is the decrease in COVID-19 patients within rural ICUs. This decrease has the NHA changing the status from a warning to watch, but, since many of the rural ICUs are small in bed count, conditions can quickly fluctuate. Supply shortages are beginning to be reported by facilities for seemingly random and unrelated items such as crutches and baby formula. The NHA continues to watch supply levels and supply-chain issues. Staffing continues to be an issue throughout the nation. High occupancy rates within several northern facilities are based on the occupancy of staffed beds. The NHA continues to watch this situation closely; however, if a mild-moderate resurgence were to occur within the region, various mitigation measures could be enacted to manage the situation.

**New treatments anticipated:** Several new COVID-19 therapies are expected to be available within Nevada in the coming days and weeks. The first will be the oral therapeutic from Merck. This medicine is already being used in the UK to treat mild-to-moderate COVID-19 in adults with comorbidities. The second treatment is Pfizer's Paxlovid, an oral antiviral medication. Both medications are expected to be available with limited allocations to the states until production can be ramped-up. Both drugs will be released under Emergency Use Authorization (EAU) rules. Hopefully, these two medications will reduce hospital COVID-19 demand, particularly ICU demand.

**The NHA introduces a new table to the Weekly Wrap Up.** This new chart looks at county-level COVID-19 hospitalization data over the previous two weeks. The chart compares the 7-Day moving averages of confirmed, hospitalized COVID-19 cases from two days, 14-days apart, to determine the status of COVID-19 hospitalizations. The raw data is available via the NHA portal (contact [COVID@nvha.net](mailto:COVID@nvha.net) for access). Each county, with one or more hospitals, has its status delineated using the same color code used in the Weekly Wrap Up Risk Table. The NHA intends to provide a granularity of the current COVID-19 demand on hospitals so users can monitor demand changes as mitigation methods like booster vaccines and new therapeutics are deployed.

County	COVID-19 Hospitalization Status	Confirmed Hospitalization 7-Day Moving Average 11/2/2021	Confirmed Hospitalization 7-Day Moving Average 11/15/2021
Carson City	Flat	25	25
Churchill	Flat	9	7
Clark	Increasing	434	503
Douglas	Increasing	3	7
Elko	Decreasing	11	5
Humboldt	Decreasing	8	2
Lander	None	0	0
Lincoln	None	0	0
Lyon	None	0	0
Mineral	Flat	2	1
Nye	Flat	7	6
Pershing	None	0	0
Washoe	Flat	115	110
White Pine	Flat	3	2

**Vaccine Booster News:** Multiple states took actions related to vaccines and boosters that conflict with CDC guidelines during the past week. Four states, including neighboring California, a member of the Western States Scientific Safety Review Workgroup, now allow booster shots to be provided to all adults regardless of age or comorbidity. Twelve states, including neighbors Utah, Idaho, and Arizona, entered a suit against the federal government on 11/15 to block the CMS mandate requiring hospitals to vaccinate staff. A similar lawsuit against the OSHA requirement has already been filed, and the 5th US Circuit Court of Appeals has issued a stay effectively halting the OSHA rule temporarily.

**Daily Hospital Data Reporting.** The NHA took part in multiple discussions with our federal partners to discuss the ongoing requirement and specific questions that hospitals have been required to answer for the better part of two years. The consensus is that the questions will change in some form. However, we are unsure what shape these changes will take, and hospitals can anticipate the survey continuing throughout any federally declared public health emergency.

**Traveling Nurses and Price Gouging.** All hospitals know the current environment. Nurses are in short supply, and the price to secure temporary workers continues to increase, in some cases above \$240/hr. Hospitals may have finally been heard. On November 15, the White House was urged to investigate the price gouging of staffing agencies by a bipartisan group of both Representatives and Senators. The NHA will continue to monitor this situation.