Overall, COVID-19 hospitalizations continue to slowly decline in Nevada. These declines are entirely driven by slowing hospitalizations within Clark County, as the rest of the state appreciates increased hospitalization. Hospitals throughout the state are also reporting emergency department (ED) saturation or overcrowding. This overcrowding is further exacerbated as people go to EDs to seek rapid COVID-19 tests to return to work or school. The NHA is now encouraging everyone to avoid hospital emergency rooms for COVID-19 testing and instead visit one of the many other available options.

There are no changes in the risk table from last week. Hospitals are short-staffed in many departments, not unlike the rest of the economy, with the nursing shortage becoming a country-wide concern. COVID-19 patients are continuing to surge at hospitals within the north and rural areas of the state. Several facilities are requesting triage tents to be erected outside the facilities, as well as staffing assistance through the National Guard or federal resources. Patient transfers to a higher level of care continue to be contentious.

How Nevadans Can Help Hospitals and Health Care Workers

- Get vaccinated. The majority of recent and current hospitalizations for COVID-19 are for people who are NOT vaccinated.

- Avoid a hospital emergency room for COVID-19 testing. There are many available resources in communities throughout Nevada where testing is available. Hospital emergency rooms are needed for those seeking emergency medical care.

- Use urgent care centers or primary care providers for non-emergent care. If you or a loved one is in need of non-emergent care, please visit an urgent care center or see a primary care provider.
Rural Nevada has reached a record high number of hospitalized COVID-19 patients. The majority of these patients are unvaccinated. The number may be skewed from previous waves because rural facilities are experiencing difficulty transferring patients to urban medical centers for intensive care. Hence, many people who may have been transferred in pre-Delta variant times are now being treated from door-to-discharge in rural hospitals.

Other Issues
The NHA will be sending out Extent of Play Agreements (XPAs) for the annual earthquake exercise today. The exercise has been on-again, off-again due to the surges our hospitals have been experiencing and the workloads our staff and practitioners are experiencing. The exercise will be scaled down from previous years and will focus on communication and patient safety issues. The exercise date is Oct. 21, 2021, for those who wish to participate. Contact Chris@nvha.net if you need an XPA.
Portal Upgrades
You will notice several changes in the NHA Portal as we continue to make product improvements. First, we have added a notification flag that will alert you to any new or unread reports. Second, a yellow circle with a numerical value will appear near the report tab indicating how many unread reports are available. Likewise, once you are in the report file, new reports will be highlighted in yellow.

We are also now displaying M2’s Antimicrobial Resistance Intelligence Reports on the portal. These reports will be updated periodically and leverage artificial intelligence technologies to support the hospitals' antimicrobial stewardship efforts.

To get access to the NHA portal and the ability to create your own custom graphs and query the COVID-19 data, please send an email to COVID@nvha.net. Please send your request from your work email and include a brief description of your need for access. Members of the general public will be directed to one of the many public-facing websites.