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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

TASKFORCE WORKING ON LOCAL COVID-19 HOTLINE

Earlier today, State of Nevada Governor Sisolak signed an emergency directive to close all non-essential businesses, which goes beyond the previous softer message that requested non-essential business to close. He is now stating that if a business is NOT essential, he is using his power as Governor to order them to close.

The Governor stated in the press release that, “we don’t have to guess what comes next: the rapid increase in positive cases will continue, the number of cases aren’t slowing down, and we have not yet reached our apex”. He indicated that we don’t have enough test kits and we aren’t going to get supplies from the federal government at this time. “This is our unfortunate reality, Nevada.”

The remainder of the directive addressed the lack of capacity at the hospitals, “Nevada’s health system will not be able to handle an excessive increase in patients all at once without rapidly straining resources...Let me be clear, if we do not do everything we can to slow this virus, hospital beds will soon be completely filled with COVID-19 patients. There will be no beds to set broken bones, treat heart attacks or use for other necessary medical procedures.”

He addressed concerns related to the economic impact, “Some are saying these actions will devastate our economy, but for a state that relies this heavily on visitors, the impacts are inevitable. It’s happening whether we want it to or not.”

The Governor addressed the exceptions he’s made to the unemployment insurance benefits and the Silver State Insurance Exchange. Please see the Governor’s [Press Release](#) in full.

The same information that the Governor has released is true of Elko County. Elko County is aware of the identified shortages and we are working on opening a triage hotline to help centralize information and give our citizens direction.

Please keep these things in mind during the COVID-19 outbreak:

- There isn’t a cure for COVID-19 itself, so treatments should be reserved for those with secondary symptoms or infections.
- Because there is national a test kit shortage we need to reserve them for people who are not responding to other treatments or meet the CDC algorithm for testing.
- If you have symptoms, you should assume that you have it and stay home. Use CDC recommendations of social distancing and hygiene precautions at home, which will help it from spreading throughout the household.
- Most people (80% or more) who contract it are going to get mild flu like symptoms, which you can weather at home. Our limited resources need to be reserved for those who are not getting better by other means.

Please support the [Stay Home for Nevada](#) Initiative issued by Governor Sisolak.

Stay informed; for more information on COVID-19 visit www.elkocountynv.net and <https://nvhealthresponse.nv.gov>.

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