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Press Release

This press release considers COVID-19 which is commonly known as the Coronavirus.

This release serves as an update of the latest known information, precautions, and actions related to the virus.

The World Health Organization has raised its RISK ASSESSMENT of CORONAVIRUS to VERY HIGH as the number of cases continues to grow. Worldwide there have been over 86,000 cases and over 3,000 deaths. The number of cases within the United States has grown with six reported deaths in the United States as of the morning of March 3rd, all in Washington state. A pandemic has not yet been declared, but everyone should prepare for the probability. Currently, there is no antagonist or inoculation available for this virus.

The Center for Disease Control (CDC) remains the primary US response agency for confirmation testing, but presumptive testing kits have been distributed to State governments. U.S. officials continue to stress that the risk to Americans remains low and more deaths occur from seasonal influenza.

The following points should be considered:

- There are no confirmed cases in Nevada. Several suspect cases have been tested and cleared including one patient who presented to Desert View Hospital.
- The virus has an incubation period up to 14 days and maybe be community spread.
- Symptoms include: Fever, cough, shortness of breath, and pneumonia.
- People over 50 years old are most prone to the virus. Especially those with a compromised immune system.
- Most infections have been passed at the height of an individual's (host) symptoms.
- The highest risk is for those within 6 feet of an infected person with transmission through respiratory droplets.
- HIGH RISK = Household and immediate contacts within 6 feet.

Nye County has been working closely with Desert View Hospital on precautions and contingencies.

- Additional signage reinforcing hand washing, don't touch your face with unclean hands, and reduced handshaking. Wash hands for a minimum of 20 seconds (sing Happy Birthday while washing hands as a reference of wash time).
- Additional hand sanitizer stations around the workplace and in vehicles.
- Social Distancing.
- Installation of barriers between the public and employees at public windows etc.
- Work from home initiatives.
- If schools close, prepare individual and family plans for parents to be home with the children. The plans should consider a time frame up to a minimum of 14 days.
- Stagger work schedules.
- Increase spacing between people to over 6 foot minimum, mandatory go home if respiratory symptoms are presented by an employee.
- Reduction or elimination of mass gatherings including public and employee meetings. Instead opting to using video and teleconferencing, or small groups etc.
- Daily disinfecting of door knobs, keyboards, hand rails, restrooms, etc.
- Create and maintain Individual and family preparedness plans for food, water, medications etc. for at least 14 days or more. (Include animals).

We fully anticipate distribution of weekly updates unless frequency requirements need to be reduced.

Please understand that all information posted in this release is subject to rapid change.