Carson City Health and Human Services (CCHHS) is continuously monitoring COVID-19, a disease caused by a new coronavirus. On March 11, 2020 the World Health Organization (WHO) declared COVID-19 a pandemic. A pandemic is an outbreak of a disease that is occurring in many countries. Classifying it as a pandemic does not relate to the severity of the disease but rather the geographic locations affected.

There have been confirmed cases of COVID-19 in Nevada. These cases were identified in Las Vegas and in Reno. Although we are seeing cases in Nevada now, there are still 0 cases and 0 people under investigation in Carson City, Douglas, Lyon, and Storey counties.

CCHHS was notified that residents from Carson City, Douglas, and Lyon counties are amongst the 49 Nevadans on the Grand Princess cruise ship, which had been floating off the California coast since Thursday, March 5th, when 21 passengers aboard tested positive for COVID-19. However, the federal authorities confirmed that the 49 passengers from Nevada are asymptomatic. CCHHS and other local health authorities have been working on contingency plans with the Governor’s Office and the Nevada Department of Health and Human Services (DHHS) to allow the Nevadans to return under conditions that protect the health and safety of the passengers as well as our communities.

In order to be returned to Nevada, the following conditions must be met:

- The passengers must be asymptomatic;
- The passengers must be tested for COVID-19 prior to boarding the secure flight back to Nevada so the presumptive test results will be available for local health authorities;
- Any passenger that refuses testing will remain under the supervision of the appropriate federal agency;
- The passengers must be returned to the state in an isolated manner that limits exposure to the general public; and
- These passengers will remain under the supervision of their respective local health authority for the 14-day isolation period immediately upon their return to Nevada.

Upon arrival, these passengers will be required to sign a Declaration of Self Quarantine, confirming they will physically separate and confine themselves from other people for a period of 14 days, and then they will be securely returned to their homes and monitored by CCHHS.

These residents are our friends, family, and community members. CCHHS and our Quad-County partners are ready to welcome them home. The repatriation of our residents will not increase the immediate risk of COVID-19 to our communities.
It is important to protect yourself and others from respiratory diseases by taking every day preventative actions such as:

- Avoid close contact with people who are sick.
- Stay home when you are sick.
- Cover your cough or sneeze with a tissue, then throw that tissue in the trash.
- Clean and disinfect frequently touched objects and surfaces using a regular household cleaning spray or wipe. Remember to clean your cell phones.
- Wash your hands with soap and water often for at least 20 seconds, especially after going to the bathroom; before eating; and after blowing your nose, coughing, or sneezing. If soap and water are not available, use an alcohol-based hand sanitizer that contains at least 60% alcohol.
- Avoid touching your eyes, nose, and mouth.

Please remember this is “flu season” and the above preventive actions should be followed regularly to minimize your risk of getting a respiratory illness.

Weekly situational updates will be distributed on Wednesdays. For updates and more information visit [https://gethealthy Carsoncity.org/novel-coronavirus-2019/](https://gethealthy Carsoncity.org/novel-coronavirus-2019/).