Truckee Meadows COVID Risk Meter
Overview

October 30, 2020

- The **COVID Risk Meter** was created by a local team of scientists to help synthesize data and information about COVID in our northern Nevada community, and to empower residents to make personal decisions about their own behavior based on easy to understand information.

- The risk meter uses data about **COVID testing**, new **COVID cases**, **hospitalizations**, and **hospital capacity** to assess the current state of COVID-related conditions in the region. As each of these data indicators increase, the "risk score" increases in an additive way.

    o The risk meter site is **updated daily** by the staff of the **Truckee Meadows Regional Planning Agency**, except on weekends when certain data are not available. www.tmrpa.org
    o The **website address** for the meter is: covidriskmeter.org

- COVID Risk **Assessments** measure or test scheduling requests (Indicator 1) are provided by the Washoe County Health District (WCHD) and are a leading indicator of COVID spread.

- The **Test Positivity** measure (Indicator 2) comes directly from the state website (nvhealthresponse.nv.gov), and the thresholds we use in the model match the state's criteria for elevated disease transmission.

- **Daily case data** (Indicator 3) is provided from the Washoe County COVID dashboard. Class breaks for the new cases daily indicator match the breaks developed by the Harvard Global Health Institute.

    o Allows for comparison to other counties nationwide
    o https://globalepidemics.org/key-metrics-for-covid-suppression/

- **Hospital statistics** (Indicators 4 and 5) are provided by the Nevada Hospital Association (NHA) and describe the existing burden to hospitals/ICUs due to COVID, as well as overall hospital/ICU capacity. The criteria and breaks for low, medium and high hospital and ICU usage were informed by hospital administrators and staff at NHA.

- All **modeling assumptions** were created and vetted in conjunction with local, state and national public health experts, medical professionals, doctors and statisticians. Dr. Azzam from the Governor's COVID Task Force has participated on several calls and provided advice regarding the risk meter model. The state of Nevada's top biostatistician, Kyra Morgan, was consulted several times on calculating test positivity and other metrics. Other participants include: Kevin Dick and other Washoe County Health District staff, doctors from Renown and other physician practices, hospital administrators for each major hospital, public health experts from UNR, REMSA officials, elected officials from each jurisdiction, and the Reno-Sparks Chamber of Commerce.

- **Improvement of the model** occurs on a regular basis, and tweaks to improve performance are continuously being implemented, as necessary. Ongoing work efforts include:

  - Validation of results
  - Sensitivity analysis of indicator performance
  - The addition of prediction capabilities
  - Enhanced data gathering (e.g. getting test scheduling from Renown, Walgreens, etc.)
  - Website and graphing upgrades

- The COVID Risk Meter was **introduced to the northern Nevada Community** in a **press conference** on Friday, **September 4, 2020**.   At that time, the COVID risk meter was in the Orange – High Risk Category. A few weeks later the meter dropped to Yellow – Moderate Risk. Later in September it went back into the Orange.

  https://m.youtube.com/watch?feature=youtu.be&v=fS-TxGMdmr0

- A **second press conference** was held on Tuesday, **October 27, 2020** to introduce a new webpage for the meter and when the risk meter was threatening to increase to the Red - Very High risk - category. On October 30, 2020, the meter did in fact go into the Red category for the first time since introduction.

  https://youtu.be/RGnJusXdtz4

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