

## Casinos In Las Vegas Post Closures

A full economic shutdown, a world wide pandemic, who would have known a year ago that this would be the reality of this year. Nevada is known for the many casinos, slot machines, and gaming, however all of this is shut down with little idea of when they will be coming back. “Las Vegas Casinos In A Post-COVID-19 World,” by Chris Sieroty goes into detail on what is happening with the casinos and what measures are going to be taken once everything is opened back up again.

It has been two months since Governor Sisolak shut down all non-essential businesses, sending casinos into one of the longest waits to reopen. As moving forward, there is still no clear date to when casinos will be able to open up again to serve the public, but is said to be getting evaluated again in 4-5 weeks. When opening back up, the order in which casinos are used to, is going to be completely different. Masks, gloves, and sanitizer are going to become the new norms of these businesses. This even brings up some opposing opinions, as many casinos are not sure if they will have the same guidelines as the others. Some believe that employers need to wear masks and they will provide them, while others believe it is optional. Another controversial thing that comes along with this is how Macau casinos plan on reopening. They plan on using masks and having 25 EMT's on site and taking peoples temperatures as they walk in. To some this may seem a bit excessive, as they plan on just using the thermal imaging devices and having security guards to escort people out if they do not pass the temperature test. Some employees want the casinos to pay for their COVID-19 tests before they return back to work.

There are many questions that are created from the closures of the casinos in the interview with Roger Gros, publisher of global gaming magazine . A big question Sieroty brings

up is if casinos are taking this time to lay off employees and not bring them back after this time with more technological advancements taking place. Gros expresses his answer to this question and says that casinos will not need all of the employees that they once needed, as machinery was already on its way but closure has helped it come along even more. Will machinery end up replacing employers' jobs, a big question that goes along with this. Gros also brings up that he believes cocktail waitresses, maids, and even vice presidents in the corporate section will also be re-evaluated and possibly have less of them. Another big thing asked, is if these businesses are thinking about changing their business paradigms. If this happened, it would almost be as if Las Vegas was reinventing its casinos, to bring people back and get the business up and running again. They have to make sure they do this in a sense that, "will not jeopardize Nevada economy or shareholders of these casinos" (Gros). He also mentioned that Nevada should want to lower prices of parking and things like this to engage in people wanting to come more.

Moving onto the interview that happens next with Howard Stutz, executive editor of CDC Gaming Reports. Siertoty brings up many interesting points during this interview. The first asking what Stutz thinks of the new casino regulations being added. Stutz mentioned things such as social distancing, meaning less people being able to be at slot machines and restaurant tables at once. He also named things such as giving people that come in masks, sanitizer, and gloves. Another topic that was brought up was the before mentioned topic of what will make Nevadans feel safe enough to come back to the casinos. Bouncing off of Gros' idea that lowering parking tickets and things along this manner would make people more willing to come down, Stutz disagreed. "People want to come back feeling safe, with safety precautions, not just lowered prices," Stutz said. (Stutz) Also saying that each casino will have their own safety precautions

and actions taken to ensure people feel safe, even lowering capacity to 50%. Sieroty brings up another question of if casinos will have people lined up outside waiting to get in with these half occupancy problems. He is shut down by Stutz, who says this should not be a problem as many will still be too afraid to come back.

There were also many side notes in both of these interviews. One being discussion of all the many projects that are taking place. Starting with Fremont Street which was starting to boom, even opening up a hotel there, and people are wondering what will happen with it? Another being the Circus project. Or the inventions of screen wavers in slot machines, that you simply just wave your phone across, like an e-card instead of putting money in the slots. Some believe that this will help slow the spread of the virus. A very important thing that was also brought up was that the strip/casinos are also tied into so many different businesses. An example used was trade shows. They are concerned with what will happen to these trade shows if casino businesses are completely different. This also affects casinos, as some have already about a ¼ loss on top of them. One last thing is the talk of games and sports going online and if this does so, how long it will take for everything to go back to normal. Some argue and say that it will be a very quick change while others say that it could take up to a year.

Overall, this all relates back to the Introduction to American Politics Class at UNLV. Everything being discussed distinctly relates back to public opinion that we discussed back in chapter five. Public opinion consists of the wants of the majority of people. When talking about wearing masks, gloves, and sanitizing way more than usual it is genuinely up to the public opinion on whether or not people will do this or not. Meaning that if the majority workers of a casino believe this is the right thing to do to stay safe, then it will happen and be enforced.

Another way this relates to our course is by the civil liberties we are provided. If someone does not want to wear a mask, technically it is their civil liberty not to have too. While it can be a very highly suggested thing to do, it can never truly become mandatory as it is messing with someone's liberties. Last, it also relates because of the majority and minority of people. This relates to this because the major hotels will be able to come out of this pandemic and continue to stay open as a casino, while the more minor casinos have a high risk of falling under and having to close.

## Works Cited

Sieroty, Chris. Las Vegas Casinos Post-COVID-19 World. May 6, 2020.

<https://knpr.org/knpr/2020-05/las-vegas-casinos-post-covid-19-world>