



**NEVADA
HEALTH
RESPONSE**

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Governor Sisolak signs emergency regulation restricting drug distribution during COVID-19

Las Vegas, NV — Today, Nevada Governor Steve Sisolak signed an emergency regulation promulgated by the Nevada State Board of Pharmacy related to the prescription and issuance of two certain drugs.

While the drugs serve necessary medical purposes, there is no consensus among COVID-19 experts or Nevada's own medical health advisory team that the two drugs provide treatment for COVID-19 patients. The emergency regulation is aimed at preventing hoarding of the drugs.

"This emergency regulation protects Nevadans who needs these drugs for legitimate medical purposes. At this point in time, there is no known cure for COVID-19 and we must not withhold these drugs from those who need them," said Gov. Steve Sisolak. "The best way to prevent the spread of COVID-19 is to stay home for Nevada, not to stockpile these drugs."

The regulation prohibits the prescribing and dispensing chloroquine and hydroxychloroquine for a COVID-19 diagnosis, requires an ICD-10 code on prescriptions for the drugs and limits the prescription amount to a 30-day supply for the drugs.

The emergency regulation will ensure access for Nevada patients to chloroquine and hydroxychloroquine for legitimate medical purposes.

"This emergency regulation is a strong step in protecting patients. While studies are underway on the usefulness of these drugs in treating COVID-19, we must deal with facts, not fiction," said Dr. Ishan Azzam, the chief medical officer for the state Division of Public and Behavioral Health. "Preserving these drugs for those who need it is the right decision."

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