



**NEVADA
HEALTH
RESPONSE**

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COVID-19 Press Bulletin for August 26, 2021

Carson City, NV — Today, Candice McDaniel, Deputy Director of Programs for the Nevada Department of Health and Human Services, registered nurse Peggy Franklin from the Nevada State Immunization Program, and Dr. Ellie Graeden of Talus Analytics provided information on Nevada’s ongoing COVID-19 response and vaccination efforts, during a call with members of the media.

This bulletin provides facts, figures, and informational items from the call. As a reminder, data is provided in a dashboard on the home page of the [Nevada Health Response](#) website.

SUMMARY:

PFIZER APPROVAL:

- Earlier this week we were excited to hear that the FDA has fully approved the Pfizer COVID-19 vaccine for ages 16 and up.
- FDA’s full approval of the first COVID-19 vaccine is an important milestone that should reassure anyone who has concerns about getting vaccinated.
- With the FDA granting full approval for a COVID-19 vaccine, Nevadans can be even more confident that the COVID-19 vaccines work and are safe.
- For full approval of a new drug, the FDA requires extensive data on safety and effectiveness, inspection of manufacturing facilities, and a comprehensive review of all clinical and “real-world” use.
- More than 200 million people have received a COVID-19 vaccine, and with nearly a year and a half since trials began, America’s leading scientists and medical experts are confident in the safety and effectiveness of the vaccines.

- We hope that this approval will give Nevadans the confidence to make the choice to be vaccinated.
- The vaccines are safe and effective and we're proud to have so many partners statewide so everyone can find their shot at a convenient location.
- The Nevada State Immunization Program (NSIP) is working with vaccinating providers and are prepared to meet the needs of Nevadans no matter which COVID-19 vaccine brand they choose.

THIRD DOSE / BOOSTER:

- It has been determined that some immunocompromised individuals need a third dose of COVID-19 vaccine as part of their vaccination series to make sure they have enough protection against COVID-19.
- This third dose should be given at a minimum of 28 days after the initial series is complete.
- The CDC has outlined the medical conditions and who should consider getting the third dose of Pfizer or Moderna.
- To help ensure there are no barriers for this vulnerable population, individuals can self-attest and receive the additional dose wherever the mRNA vaccines are offered.
- The Department is waiting for additional information and guidance from our federal partners regarding a "booster" dose of vaccine for the general public.
- The COVID-19 response continues to evolve and when we receive more information we will provide an update to our vaccinating providers and all Nevadans.
- In anticipation of a recommendation from the federal government, the Nevada State Immunization Program is preparing to support increased vaccination demand.

VACCINATION DATA:

- This week the 14-day average administration of COVID-19 vaccine is about 6,400 doses which is an increase of about 200 doses from the previous week.
- Vaccination rates continue to rise in the state due to robust vaccination efforts from all of our partners.
- More than 3% of unvaccinated Nevadans chose to get their first dose last week, which is an increase from the week before and 30% higher than initiation rates one month ago.
- While this is worth celebrating, we still have work to do as only 61% of eligible Nevadans are partially vaccinated, 16% lower than the national average.

- Carson City is leading vaccine administration overall, with almost 61% of the eligible population fully vaccinated. Washoe and Douglas follow, with 60% and 53% of people fully vaccinated, respectively.

CO-ADMINISTRATION:

- Earlier this year the CDC announced that the COVID-19 vaccine and other vaccines can be administered at the same time.
- This was great news for health care providers and also Nevada families as they considered back-to-school shots and the availability of the COVID-19 vaccine for those ages 12 and older.
- The ability to get the COVID-19 vaccine and other vaccines during the same visit makes it easier for both patients and providers to schedule needed vaccines.
- Vaccination clinics this Fall will be able to offer COVID-19 vaccine and the flu vaccine if they have both in stock.
- The COVID-19 vaccines were previously recommended to be administered alone, out of an abundance of caution and not due to any known safety concerns.
- At this time there has been substantial data collected and the CDC has stated that COVID-19 vaccines and other vaccines may now be administered without regard to timing.
- If you have questions or concerns about vaccine co-administration please speak with a health care professional.
- Your doctor can consider if you are behind in receiving recommended vaccines and if you are at high risk of a vaccine-preventable disease.

PREGNANCY OR BREASTFEEDING:

- It is so important for pregnant, recently pregnant, and breastfeeding people to be vaccinated for COVID-19 as it has been reported they are more likely to get severely ill compared to people who are not pregnant.
- The CDC has stated the COVID-19 vaccines are safe and effective for pregnant people and do not cause fertility problems in men or women.
- The American College of Obstetricians and Gynecologists (ACOG) and the Society for Maternal-Fetal Medicine (SMFM), the two leading organizations representing specialists in obstetric care, recommend that all pregnant and breastfeeding individuals be vaccinated against COVID-19.
- The three vaccines are effective and as the Delta variant increases in circulation in communities, it is so important for those who are pregnant or breastfeeding to be vaccinated to protect themselves and their families.

- If you are pregnant and unsure about the vaccine, please speak with a trusted health care professional.

COVID-19 IN CHILDREN:

- According to the American Academy of Pediatrics during the past week children represented 22.4% of reported cases nationally.
- Over the past two weeks, there was a 7% increase in the cumulative number of child COVID-19 cases.
- While childhood cases of COVID-19 are rising, children represent fewer than 1% of cases that result in hospitalization and less than .01% in fatalities in Nevada, similar to what is being seen nationwide.
- The fear of COVID-19 for children is understandable and data continues to be collected on the long-term physical health of infected children, but the most important way to protect kids is to vaccinate them whenever possible, and importantly, the adults around them
- According to the Mayo Clinic, Nevada has given at least one dose to 16% of its population under 18. This is slightly below the United States overall, which has given at least one dose to 18% of the under 18 age group.
- As a reminder, children aged 12 and older are eligible for vaccination. The vaccine is safe and effective and a critical protection for children, especially as they return to school.
- Many schools may have a large population of either unvaccinated and/or vaccine-ineligible students which is why implementation of layered approaches, such as masking, social distancing, increasing ventilation, hand hygiene and other measures are vitally important to reduce the burden of COVID-19 and the associated risks among our children.

HOSPITALIZATIONS:

- In this week's update from the Nevada Hospital Association, it was noted that the primary health care stressors are staffing concerns, supply chain instability, and COVID-19 hospitalization increases in Northern Nevada.
- In Northern Nevada, staffing has been elevated to a watch status as hospitals have enacted mitigation steps to manage shortfalls.
- In the rural region, supplies have been elevated to a watch status due to multiple reported shortages related to COVID-19 testing supplies.
- The Hospital Association report that the southern region of the state has two areas of improvement.
- Hospitals and health departments are reporting challenges staffing all areas.

- As of August 16, 5% of pediatric beds in the state were filled with COVID-19 patients.

BREAKTHROUGH CASES:

- While more cases of COVID-19 in people who are fully vaccinated are being reported, they remain rare.
- While no vaccine is 100 percent effective, the current vaccines are highly effective at preventing hospitalizations and death in people that are fully vaccinated.
- As of August 19, the state has reported fewer than 0.04% of total patients who have been hospitalized or died from COVID were fully vaccinated. Of the 1.3 million people vaccinated as of that date in the state, only 500 have been hospitalized or died from the disease.
- Vaccination protects against 99% of all breakthrough cases. Elderly individuals 65 and older are most impacted by breakthrough cases with 70% of hospitalizations and 88% of deaths.
- Despite publicity around breakthroughs, the vaccines are doing exactly what they were designed to do, they protect against severe illness and death.

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