



**NEVADA  
HEALTH  
RESPONSE**

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

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## **COVID-19 Press Bulletin for August 6, 2021**

Carson City, NV — Today, Candice McDaniel, Deputy Director of Programs for the Nevada Department of Health and Human Services provided updates 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:**

- Nevada is currently experiencing a surge in cases and hospitalizations similar to last summer's levels.
- Cases have not reached the same levels as last year, but are very close.
- Hospitalizations have surpassed last summer's levels and continue to grow, though at slowing rates. Hospitalization rates lag a few weeks behind cases.
- Efforts to mitigate this surge include the vaccine campaign, mask mandate in high transmission counties, K-12 masking, state employee vaccination and testing along with local governments and private sector businesses taking similar actions.

## **MAT RECOMMENDATIONS:**

- As the Governor discussed yesterday, vaccines are the way out of this pandemic and the State is encouraging everyone who has been waiting, to get the COVID-19 vaccine.
- It is free and available in so many locations now.
- The goal is to remove all barriers and make sure there is vaccine for everyone who wants it.
- As the COVID response has progressed and things have changed the State continues to consider all options and look at available resources to protect the health of our communities.
- As Governor Sisolak discussed yesterday, he asked the Medical Advisory Team (MAT) to meet recently to discuss three topics:
  - vaccination for higher education students;
  - recommendations for those who work with vulnerable populations; and
  - review of how to make large gatherings safer
- When it comes to vaccination of Nevada System of Higher Education (NSHE) students, the MAT is in agreement with the unanimous recommendation from the NSHE COVID-19 Task Force to require vaccinations. This is the first step in a layered recommendation process. The next step is to work with stakeholders and NSHE leaders to review timelines so regulations can be developed by the State Immunization Team and ultimately brought forward to the State Board of Health.
- The State Board of Health is the final decider for passing school vaccine mandates by approving regulations drafted by the Division of Public and Behavioral Health.
- The Governor recently announced that all State employees would either need to be vaccinated, or be tested for COVID-19 each week.
- NSHE employees are subject to the State of Nevada employee policy requiring proof of vaccination or weekly COVID-19 testing.
- The State will be providing updates related to the other requests made to the MAT as there is more information to share.

## **VACCINATION:**

- If you received the Pfizer or Moderna vaccine it is so important to get both shots.
- This will provide the full protection against the virus.
- Even if you got your first dose but never made it back for your second shot, it is never too late to get your second dose and you will not need to start the vaccination series over.
- At this time there is not evidence that pushing out the second dose makes it less effective.
- Second, even if you had COVID-19 you should still get the vaccine.
- If you were ill recently, or have questions or a medical condition, you should speak to a trusted health care professional.
- At this time, it is not known how long someone is protected from getting sick again after recovering from COVID-19.
- The immunity someone gains from having an infection, called "natural immunity," varies from person to person.
- As of yesterday, 91,061 individuals ages 12 to 17 have been vaccinated.
- Recently Elko County teens have seen an increase in vaccination, 44% of their vaccines in July were in the 12-18 year old age group.
- Finally, when it comes to vaccination efforts being conducted by federal, state, local and community partners the State is seeing initial signs of success.
- In addition to the overall increase in vaccinations, preliminary data on the efforts in targeted Southern Nevada zip codes where canvassing and outreach efforts have been conducted is showing an increase in those zip codes compared to zip codes where no canvassing has occurred.

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