



**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

December 21, 2021

Meghin Delaney

Communications Director

CONTACT: [pressroom@nvhealthresponse.nv.gov](mailto:pressroom@nvhealthresponse.nv.gov)

**State continues work on measures to keep NSHE students,  
vulnerable populations safe**

Carson City, NV — Today, the Nevada Legislative Commission completed an early review of two regulations submitted by the Division of Public and Behavioral Health (DPBH) that would continue requirements that were passed under emergency regulation status.

The two regulations require mandatory COVID-19 vaccination for State of Nevada staff, employees, and contractors who work with vulnerable populations in state-operated, licensed health care settings or state-operated detention facilities and vaccination for students enrolled in Nevada state universities, colleges and community colleges.

Earlier this year the State Board of Health approved emergency regulations for both groups that were then signed by the Governor.

The regulations apply to the Nevada Department of Corrections (NDOC) and any Department of Health and Human Services (DHHS) employees, contractor or transfer who enter specific institutions for vulnerable populations within the normal scope of their employment as outlined in the regulation. Additionally, Nevada System of Higher Education (NSHE) students who attend in-person classes will be required to be vaccinated.

Though the Commission did not support early approval, the Division will proceed with the promulgation process with plans to present the regulations again to the Commission if approved by the Board of Health. The State listened to legislative concerns and will work to address the issues while also following public health guidelines.

The State will continue to work with DHHS and NDOC to ensure consistent operations while also supporting NSHE institutions as they prepare for a safe spring semester.

The traditional steps to promulgate regulations include:

1. The Division drafts proposed regulation language and provided it to the Legislative Counsel Bureau (LCB) for edits and drafting.
2. DPBH assesses which small businesses (for profit companies with fewer than 150 employees) may be impacted by the regulation and requests feedback on the impact.
3. Public workshops are hosted to allow for public comment on the regulations.
4. Regulations are presented to the Board of Health. If approved, they are sent to LCB for addition on the Legislative Commission agenda.
5. If the Legislative Commission approves, the regulations are filed with the Secretary of State.
6. The regulation is codified into law by LCB.

Today's review was allowing the fifth step to occur simultaneous to the preceding steps - which would help more closely align the process to the start of the spring semester for NSHE students.

In August, Governor Steve Sisolak announced that he requested his Medical Advisory Team (MAT) review vaccination for several specific groups. Following their review, the MAT recommended that Nevada should require vaccination for all postsecondary students within Nevada System of Higher Education (NSHE) institutions and State employees who work with vulnerable populations.

The Governor and State public health officials continue to urge all eligible Nevadans to get their COVID-19 vaccine as soon as possible. COVID-19 vaccines are free, safe, and effective at preventing severe illness, hospitalization, and death.

The COVID-19 vaccine is available for those age 5 years and older and is free. Insurance is not required. To find a vaccination location go to [NVCOVIDFighter.org](https://www.nvcoVIDfighter.org).

###