

# Governor Jim Gibbons



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## **MARY GUINAN APPOINTED ACTING STATE HEALTH OFFICER**

(Carson City, NV) - Governor Jim Gibbons and Nevada Department of Health and Human Services Director Mike Willden today announced the appointment of Mary Guinan, MD, PhD, as acting State Health Officer for the Nevada State Health Division.

“As Governor, I have asked Dr. Guinan to lead a team of medical and scientific experts to examine the circumstances surrounding the cluster of acute Hepatitis C cases linked to an ambulatory care facility in Las Vegas and make recommendations on the changes needed to prevent future occurrences,” Gibbons said.

Dr. Guinan previously served as the Nevada State Health Officer from 1998 to 2002. She is certified by the American Board of Internal Medicine, the subspecialty Board of Infectious Diseases and the American Board of Preventive Medicine and Public Health. She is currently Founding Dean of the UNLV School of Public Health. She has served on the Public Health Commission of the Nevada State Medical Association since 1999.

Dr. Guinan is a physician and scientist who worked at the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention in various scientific and administrative positions for over 20 years. She participated in the worldwide smallpox eradication program and was a member of the first CDC AIDS Task Force that investigated the emerging AIDS epidemic in 1981. Her work is described in the book and movie “And the Band Played On.”

“I am pleased that Dr. Guinan is willing to serve as our acting State Health Officer during these difficult times,” Willden said. “Her professional expertise, combined with her experience as State Health Officer and her demonstrated public health leadership will be an asset as we move forward to improve public health and patient safety for Nevadans.”

Dr. Neal Smatresk, UNLV Executive Vice President and Provost, said, “Dr. Guinan is the natural choice for spearheading this critical initiative. Her expertise in public health and her leadership developing our public health program here at UNLV show she knows how to get the job done.”

Dr. Maurizio Trevisan, Vice Chancellor and Chief Executive Officer of the University of Nevada Health Sciences System, said “the appointment of Dr. Guinan is a great thing for Nevada and demonstrates how the academic institutions and the Health Sciences System can provide leadership and expertise in help solving the health challenges that we face everyday.”

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