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NEVADA STATE HEALTH DIVISION NEWS RELEASE

State Health Division Launches Safe Injection Practices Public Awareness Campaign

Carson City – The Nevada State Health Division announced today the launch of the *One and Only Campaign* in Nevada, to increase public safety and to address the ongoing problem of unsafe injection practices across the United States.

The *One & Only Campaign* is a national public health education and awareness initiative developed by the Safe Injection Practices Coalition (SIPC). SIPC is comprised of patient advocacy organizations, foundations, provider associations and industry partners, together with Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC), and has united to halt disease transmission caused by unsafe injection practices in United States healthcare facilities. The campaign name refers to the importance of healthcare personnel using “one needle, one syringe, only one time” to protect patients from bloodborne viruses and other pathogens.

“In order to protect our patients, all of us in the healthcare profession must adhere to these safe injection practices,” said State Health Officer Dr. Tracey D. Green. “Both healthcare providers and patients must insist on nothing less than One needle, One syringe, Only One time for each and every injection or IV.”

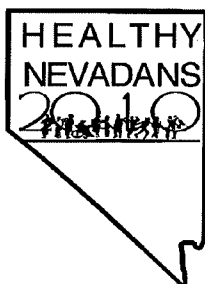
“Safe injection practices are the responsibility of every healthcare provider and it is the responsibility of every patient to ask the questions that can save their health, even their life,” says Joseph Theile, Director of the Nevada One and Only Campaign.

“One infection due to unsafe injection practices is unacceptable,” says Dr. Michael Bell, deputy director for infection control at CDC. “Every healthcare provider has the responsibility to ensure that all injections given to patients are safe.”

Dr. Evelyn McKnight, Au.D., president and co-founder of the Hepatitis Outbreaks National Organization for Reform (HONORreform) Foundation, and a Coalition member said, “By addressing the urgent need for education and heightened awareness about safe injection practices, we hope to avoid further tragedies.”

For more information about the Nevada State Health Division, go to: <http://health.nv.gov>.

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A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Richard Whitley".

Richard Whitley, Administrator

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