

Nevada System of Higher Education

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January 14, 2022

Governor Sisolak
c/o Chief of Staff Yvanna Cancela
State Capitol Building
101 N. Carson Street
Carson City, NV 89701

State Board of Health
Division of Public and Behavioral Health
Department of Health and Human Services
c/o Administrator Lisa Sherych
4150 Technology Way, Suite 300
Carson City, NV 89706

Nevada Legislative Commission
c/o Chair, Assemblyman Steve Yeager
401 S. Carson Street
Carson City, NV 89701



Re: NSHE Board of Regents' Support of Mandatory Student Vaccinations

Dear Governor Sisolak, Members of the Board of Health and Members of the Legislative Commission:

On behalf of the Board of Regents of the Nevada System of Higher Education (NSHE), please accept this letter in support of student COVID-19 vaccinations for all NSHE institutions. As you are the entities with legal authority over this issue, the Board hereby respectfully requests your consideration to impose student COVID-19 vaccinations at all NSHE institutions. NSHE has remained steadfast in its dedication to protect the health and safety of all students, employees and members of the public who learn, teach, research and participate in NSHE-sponsored education and activities. As the COVID-19 virus produces new and unknown variants and a significant percentage of our student population remains unvaccinated against the virus, the Board of Regents finds itself at a critical inflection point in our COVID-19 response. The Board of Regents must address the realities of the ever-changing COVID-19 environment and its impacts on the health and safety of our campus populations while NSHE strives to deliver and train a skilled, educated workforce and produce top-tier, world-changing research.

COVID-19 has the potential to significantly increase positive infection rates and impose isolations, quarantines, and hospitalizations. Inevitably, the Board of Regents may be asked to consider more restrictive mitigation strategies, including reintroducing classroom capacity restrictions, delaying or cancelling extracurricular activities, inflicting lockdowns, imposing on-going mask mandates, social distancing and/or testing, or returning to remote instruction, all of which negatively impact NSHE's students, educators, and staff and come with a steep price tag to our State. A student vaccine mandate would drastically reduce these potential outcomes and keep NSHE's institutions operating at full capacity.

NSHE's core commitment to medicine, science and research has driven the work of the NSHE COVID-19 Taskforce, which has consistently and unanimously recommended COVID-19 vaccines as safe, effective, and the best medically and scientifically proven way to reduce severe illness, hospitalizations and deaths from the virus and end the pandemic. Consistent therewith, the Board of Regents took bold action to impose an employee COVID-19 vaccine mandate which resulted in 97 percent of our employees becoming vaccinated.

As COVID-19 continues to threaten harm to our students, educators and staff, and further interrupt the provision of higher education through in-person participation on our NSHE campuses, the Board of Regents respectfully asks for your support in imposing appropriate student COVID-19 vaccinations at all NSHE institutions to keep our campuses and facilities safe and fully operational.

Please contact me at mrose@nshe.nevada.edu or Chief General Counsel Joe Reynolds at jreynolds@nshe.nevada.edu if you have any questions or would like additional information.

Best regards,



MELODY ROSE, PH.D.
CHANCELLOR
Nevada System of Higher Education

Cc:
Board of Regents
Joe Reynolds, Chief General Counsel