

Steve Sisolak
Governor

Richard Whitley, MS
Director



DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES

Division of Public and Behavioral Health
Helping people. It's who we are and what we do.



Lisa Sherych
Administrator

Ihsan Azzam, Ph.D., M.D.
Chief Medical Officer

STATEMENT OF EMERGENCY

Pursuant to NRS 233B.0613(1)

March 18, 2020

The Honorable Steve Sisolak
Governor of the State of Nevada
Executive Chambers
101 N. Carson Street, Suite 1
Carson City, Nevada 89701

RE: Emergency Regulation Concerning COVID-19

Dear Governor Sisolak,

The Board of Health has determined that an immediate need exists for an emergency regulation amending Nevada Administrative Code (NAC) 441A.305 to require the health authority to disclose information related to COVID-19 to first responders including firefighters, police officers and persons providing emergency services.

As COVID-19 continues to spread throughout the Nevada community, public health authorities require accurate and personal information from individuals with this suspected communicable disease. Nevada law prohibits the public health authority from disclosing personal information without the consent of the individual except in limited circumstances. NRS 441A.220; NRS 441A.230. The Nevada Legislature and Board of Health have balanced the privacy interest of every individual to their confidential medical information with the need for disclosure of that information for the protection of others in the community.

Due to the recent spread of the disease, COVID-19 was not specifically listed as a communicable disease that was significantly related to the occupation of a firefighter, police officer and person providing emergency services. This amendment to NAC 441A.305 will require the health authority to disclose information to first responders who have been exposed to COVID-19. During this pandemic, the health authority must also provide information of individuals who are being monitored for a COVID-19 exposure to dispatch of the first responder agencies upon request.

This emergency regulation will provide better protection to first responders who are critical during this pandemic. As this emergency regulation is necessary immediately, your endorsement is requested.

Respectfully,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "L. Sherych".

Lisa Sherych, Administrator
Division of Public and Behavioral Health
Department of Health and Human Services

Enclosures: Emergency Regulation, Information Statement

CC: Richard Whitley, Director, Department of Health and Human Services

Linda Anderson, Deputy Attorney General, Attorney General's Office

Legislative Counsel Bureau

Administrator, Library of Archives