



Silver Sage

CENTER FOR FAMILY MEDICINE
SPORTS AND FITNESS LAB

Aug 19, 2021

Jon Pennell, DVM
Chair, Nevada State Board of Health

RE: COVID-19 Vaccine recommendations

Dear Dr. Pennell and Board Members

I am a family physician in Reno, NV. I am writing to support the Adoption of Proposed Emergency Statement and Emergency Regulation Amendment of Nevada Administrative Code (NAC) 441A.755, relating to university, community college, and state college students providing proof of immunity to certain communicable diseases, including COVID-19.

While Nevada has made great strides with getting people vaccinated against COVID 19, we still have a lot of work to do. This is especially true in our younger populations. With the 4th wave of COVID due to the Delta variant, we are seeing more young unvaccinated people ending up in our emergency rooms and hospitals. Beyond the toll this takes on their health, these avoidable visits also affect the care of people with non-COVID medical emergencies.

The COVID-19 vaccinations are safe and effective at reducing disease severity, hospitalization, and death. A number of both public and private universities throughout the country have already mandated vaccines for their students. As I point out to medical students and residents, our country was founded on sound public health policies when George Washington had his troops be inoculated against smallpox. Having the students become vaccinated will not only help to protect their health but will also help to protect the health of the professors and others around them.

Thank you for your efforts to keep Nevada healthy.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'Andrew Pasternak', with a stylized flourish at the end.

Andrew Pasternak, MD, MS