

Nevada System of Higher Education

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August 4, 2021

Melody Rose, Ph.D., Chancellor
Nevada System of Higher Education

Re: NSHE COVID-19 Task Force Recommendation for Outreach to State Board of Health
on COVID-19 Vaccine Mandate for NSHE Students

Dear Chancellor Rose:

We are writing to inform you that the NSHE COVID-19 Task Force *unanimously* recommends that a COVID-19 vaccine be required, and that it be implemented as soon as possible, for any individual who wishes to be enrolled as a student and attend any NSHE institution.

As you are aware, the 19-member Task Force consists of representatives nominated by the Presidents of each NSHE institution, as well as System Administration. It was formed at the outset of the COVID-19 pandemic in March 2020 to provide you with expertise and recommendations related to the complex and rapidly evolving challenges raised by the pandemic, which are often unique to higher education in Nevada.

The Center for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) reports that individuals between the ages of 18 to 24 years old continue to have some of the lowest COVID-19 vaccination rates, and Nevada is currently experiencing a surge in COVID-19 cases amongst unvaccinated individuals. Legal authority to mandate a COVID-19 vaccine for NSHE students resides with the State Board of Health pursuant to NRS Chapter 439 and NAC Chapter 441A.

Accordingly, the Task Force recommends that outreach occur to the State Board of Health requesting that it consider adopting an emergency order applicable to every student attending an NSHE university, state college, and community college. We believe that this action is necessary to protect the health and safety of NSHE students and faculty, and the Nevada communities we serve.

Please contact Task Force Co-Chair Caleb Cage, Vice Chancellor for Workforce Development and Chief Innovation Officer at ccage@nshe.nevada.edu, or Task Force Co-Chair Joe Reynolds, Chief General Counsel, at jreynolds@nshe.nevada.edu, if you would like to discuss this matter or need additional information.

Sincere regards,

Members of the NSHE COVID-19 Task Force, *as follows*:

/s/ Ashleigh Angell

ASHLEIGH ANGELL, Task Force Member
Assistant Director Business, Records, & Clery Compliance
University Police Services, Southern Command
University of Nevada, Las Vegas

/s/ Constance Brooks

CONSTANCE BROOKS, PH.D., Task Force Member
Vice Chancellor for Public Affairs
and Advancement
Nevada System of Higher Education

/s/ Caleb Cage

CALEB CAGE, M.A., Task Force Co-Chair
Vice Chancellor for Workforce Development
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/s/ Patty Charlton

PATTY CHARLTON, M.P.A., Task Force Member
Vice President and Provost, Henderson Campus
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/s/ Ben Davis

BEN DAVIS, Task Force Member
Environmental, Health, and Safety Manager
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/s/ Amber Donnelly

AMBER DONNELLI, PH.D., RN., Task Force Member
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/s/ Edith Fernandez

EDITH FERNANDEZ, PH.D., Task Force Member
Vice President, College and Community Engagement
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/s/ Adam Garcia

ADAM GARCIA, Task Force Member
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/s/ Chris Heavey

CHRIS HEAVEY, PH.D., Task Force Member
Executive Vice President and Provost
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/s/ Cheryl Hug-English

CHERYL HUG-ENGLISH, M.D., Task Force Member
Medical Director and Physician
Student Health Center
University of Nevada, Reno

/s/ Eric James

ERIC JAMES, Task Force Member
Vice President of Public Safety and Director
University Police Services, Northern Command
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/s/ Gregg Maye

GREGG MAYE, Task Force Member
Assistant Director of Emergency Management
University Police Services, Southern Command
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/s/ Francis McCabe

FRANCIS MCCABE, Task Force Member
Communications Officer
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/s/ Amy Pason

AMY PASON, PH.D., Task Force Member
Chair of Faculty Senate Chairs
Associate Professor of Communication Studies
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/s/ Joe Reynolds

JOE REYNOLDS, J.D., Task Force Co-Chair
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/s/ Lisa Schaller

LISA SCHALLER, Task Force Member
Executive Director of Insurance and Loss Control
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/s/ Jennifer Schultz

JENNIFER SCHULTZ, Task Force Member
Director of Human Resources
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/s/ Vincent Solis

VINCENT SOLIS, PH.D., Task Force Member
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/s/ Amanda Windes

AMANDA WINDES, M.A., Task Force Member
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