

Nevada System of Higher Education

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MEMORANDUM

To: NSHE Presidents and Employees
From: Melody Rose, Chancellor
Date: July 21, 2021
Re: New COVID-19 Face Covering Requirements for NSHE Employees in Clark County
Cc: Board of Regents

The Southern Nevada Health District is reporting an increase in COVID-19 transmission and positive cases in Clark County. This increase is due to COVID-19 vaccination rates that remain well below the national average and targeted goals set by the Center for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) that are necessary to end the pandemic.

Yesterday, the Clark County Board of Commissions voted unanimously to temporarily reinstate a face covering mandate that is applicable to all private- and public-sector employees while in indoor public spaces regardless of whether the individual has fully received a COVID-19 vaccine or not until Tuesday, August 17, 2021. On that date, the Clark County Board of Commissioners will re-evaluate the data to determine the success of these interim measures.

The new face covering mandate will be effective for all NSHE employees working in Clark County inside a building located on NSHE campus or other property starting **Thursday, July 22, 2021**. More specifically, this policy at this time will only apply to our institutions and buildings located within Clark County. These include the following institutions: University of Nevada, Las Vegas; College of Southern Nevada; Nevada State College; Desert Research Institute; and System Administration and System Computing Services. NSHE employees working in locations outside of Clark County are not affected by this face covering mandate and shall continue with our current face covering policy that permits NSHE employees who have fully received the COVID-19 vaccine to choose to remove their face covering.

All NSHE employees located in Clark County are required to comply with this face covering policy while inside an NSHE building, irrespective of whether they are full-time, part-time, hourly paid or unpaid employees. These include, but are not limited to, the following: academic and administrative faculty, staff, letter of appointment faculty, graduate assistants, student workers, as well as interns, contractors, volunteers, and any other person on campus in an employment or quasi-employment capacity. However, NSHE employees may elect to remove their face covering under this policy while socially distanced in their office or other non-public indoor office space. Many individuals who have received the COVID-19 vaccine may choose to continue wearing a face covering and should be permitted to do so without judgment or criticism.

This new face covering policy does not apply to non-working students or members of the public while visiting an NSHE campus. Current face covering policies for students and members of the public shall remain in effect, and individuals who have fully received a COVID-19 vaccine and who are not NSHE employees may choose to remove their face covering while inside an NSHE building. Fully vaccinated, as defined by the CDC, means two weeks after the second dose of a two-dose COVID-19 vaccine is administered, *i.e.*, Pfizer or Moderna, or two weeks after a single dose COVID-19 vaccine is administered, *i.e.*, Johnson & Johnson (Janssen).

Medical experts strongly advise that receiving a COVID-19 vaccine is the single most effective action an individual can take to protect themselves, as well as their family, friends, neighbors, and NSHE students and colleagues. The vaccine is readily available at numerous locations throughout the Clark County community. Increasing vaccination rates is the primary key to ending the COVID-19 pandemic, and NSHE continues to encourage all students and employees to receive it.

NSHE will continue to follow all federal, state, and county COVID-19 policies and directives as we work together to confront the challenges brought on by the pandemic.