



## ***RESOLUTION***

**BOARD OF REGENTS' RESOLUTION** – *Providing that the Nevada System of Higher Education will continue to follow any health and safety directives of the State that are intended to ensure a safe workplace and educational environment for faculty, staff, and students; and acknowledging the Presidents' duty to provide leadership in the planning and implementation necessary for the safe and successful operation of their respective institution.*

WHEREAS, the coronavirus (COVID-19) pandemic is one of the greatest global challenges in history, impacting the NSHE and its institutions, the great State of Nevada, the United States, and the world at-large;

WHEREAS, the impacts of the global COVID-19 pandemic are significant and widespread on health and the loss of life, mental health and well-being;

WHEREAS, as a result of the COVID-19 pandemic, significant issues such as public health, employment and labor issues, in particular workers' health and safety, have converged;

WHEREAS, adhering to workplace safety and health guidelines is crucial in addressing the public health crisis resulting from the COVID-19 pandemic;

WHEREAS, purposeful action is necessary to save lives and livelihoods which can be achieved through adherence to the directives, mandates and guidance of the State;

WHEREAS, Article 5, Section 1 of the *Nevada Constitution* provides that “the supreme executive power of this State, shall be vested in a Chief Magistrate who shall be Governor of the State of Nevada”;

WHEREAS, Chapter 414 of *Nevada Revised Statutes* provides that in times of emergency the Governor may exercise all powers necessary to promote and secure the safety and protection of Nevada's civilian population;

WHEREAS, during the COVID-19 state of emergency, the honorable Governor Steve Sisolak issued 52 state directives with guidance to protect the citizens of the state from the coronavirus;

WHEREAS, the NSHE and its institutions complied with all applicable state directives related to the COVID-19 state of emergency, including but not limited to the unprecedented transition to online instruction when campuses were effectively shut down in Spring 2020;

WHEREAS, the State Board of Health is committed to assuring that all Nevada residents have the highest attainable level of individual and community health;

WHEREAS, *Nevada Revised Statutes* 439.150(1) provides that “the State Board of Health is hereby declared to be supreme in all non-administrative health matters. It has general supervision over all matters, except for administrative matters . . . , inclusive, relating to the preservation of the health and lives of citizens of this State and over the work of the Chief Medical Officer and all district, county and city health departments, boards of health and health officers”;

WHEREAS, the State Board of Health is dedicated to ensuring that both residents and visitors to our state can be active in an environment where good sanitation is practiced and there is a minimum risk of contracting disease or experience disabling unintentional injury;

WHEREAS, the State Board of Health has general jurisdiction over matters related to student immunization requirements as established in *Nevada Administrative Code* (NAC) 441A.755;

WHEREAS, the [Nevada Health Response](#) was established to inform Nevadan statewide of the current status of the coronavirus and its impact within the State of Nevada;

WHEREAS, the [Centers for Disease Control and Prevention](#) (CDC) is the nation’s leading science-based, data-driven, service organization that protects the public’s health;

WHEREAS, the CDC uses extensive data and real-time monitoring, modeling and outbreak analytics to support decision makers, including state governors and state boards of health, who need information to mitigate the effects of disease threats;

WHEREAS, there are multiple entities and authorities formally charged with the preservation of health and multiple sources for health information, both generally and specific to the coronavirus;

WHEREAS, the Board of Regents encourages students, faculty, and staff to comply with health and safety recommendations intended to keep the citizens of Nevada safe and healthy as a matter of public safety;

WHEREAS, pursuant to *Title 1, Article VII, Section 4*, it is each President’s duty to provide leadership in the planning and implementation necessary for the safe and successful operation of the member institution; and

WHEREAS, the CDC has advised that layered prevention strategies, such as staying up to date on vaccines and wearing masks, can help prevent severe illness and reduce the potential for strain on the healthcare system.

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED BY THE BOARD OF REGENTS OF THE NEVADA SYSTEM OF HIGHER EDUCATION, that the NSHE community will continue to adhere to any and all state directives and regulatory mandates regarding the coronavirus and encourages students, faculty and staff to stay up to date on vaccines and to use masks when appropriate;

RESOLVED, that it is within the purview of the President of each institution to assess the need for utilization of masks on campus based on guidance from the CDC, State Board of Health and local health districts;

RESOLVED, that each institution President may, based on the aforementioned assessment based on regional health data, implement one or more campus mask mandates when the President determines that doing so is in the best interest of the health and safety of the institution's students, faculty and staff;

RESOLVED, that a copy of this resolution shall be transmitted to internal NSHE constituencies including the Chancellor, Council of Presidents, Faculty Senate Chairs, and Nevada Student Alliance;

RESOLVED, that a copy of this resolution shall be transmitted to external NSHE constituencies including the honorable Governor Steve Sisolak and the members of the Nevada State Board of Health;  
and

RESOLVED, that this resolution is effective upon passage.