

NEVADA DIVISION OF PUBLIC AND BEHAVIORAL HEALTH
Nevada State Immunization Program
PROPOSED AMENDMENTS TO NACs 392, 394, 432A and 441A
Workshop Summary
October 2, 2020

Public workshop commenced at 8:02AM, via WebEx.

Cecilia Flores, Administrative Assistant III with the Nevada State Immunization Program, opened the public workshop by welcoming participants to the public workshop to consider amendments to Legislative Counsel Bureau (LCB) File #R046-20.

Ms. Flores thanked participants for joining the public workshop and expressed the Program's appreciation for everyone's time. She reviewed the administrative rules for the workshop and asked participants to mute their microphones if not speaking to minimize background noise.

Ms. Flores stated the workshop would be conducted in accordance with NRS 241.020, Nevada's Open Meeting Law, and noted the notice of public workshop was posted accordingly. A copy of the regulations and small business impact statement have been available on the Division of Public and Behavioral Health website: http://dpbh.nv.gov/Programs/SIP/dta/Statutes/IZ_Regulations/. A copy of the public workshop notice was made available at Nevada Legislature's website: <https://www.leg.state.nv.us/App/Notice/A/> and at <https://notice.nv.gov>. Copies were available by mail, or by calling the Division of Public and Behavioral Health at (775) 684-1030 in Carson City or (702) 486-6515 in Las Vegas. Regulations were on file and available to view at the Division of Public and Behavioral Health 4150 Technology Way, Suite 210 Carson City, NV 89706.

Ms. Flores introduced Shannon Bennett, Nevada State Immunization Program Manager.

Ms. Bennett stated the purpose of the workshop, which was to provide an opportunity for the public to assist the agency in formulating draft regulations. She elaborated that following the public workshop, the draft regulations are subject to a public hearing rulemaking process conducted by the State Board of Health (BOH). Testimony and written materials submitted during this workshop will be considered during the regulation development phase. In the event interested parties' recommendations are not included in the proposed draft of the regulations, interested parties may also present materials or testimony for consideration by the State Board of Health. Written materials should be submitted to:

Lisa Sherych
State Board of Health
Division of Public and Behavioral Health
4150 Technology Way Suite 300
Carson City, NV 89706

Ms. Bennett added that materials submitted at least 15 days prior to a meeting of the BOH for which this item will appear on the agenda will be included in the packets sent to the BOH for review. She stated the proposed regulations being heard today will be presented at a future Board of Health meeting. Appropriate notice is forthcoming.

Ms. Flores stated the public may make comment one of four ways, by calling (415) 655-0001 and entering the access code, then wait for the last three digits of your phone number to be announced; comments can also be sent via email to Sbennett@health.nv.gov. She added participants may also fax comments to (775) 684-8338 or mail them to the Nevada State Immunization Program at 4150 Technology way, Suite 210, Carson City NV 89706. Public comment is limited to two minutes per speaker to ensure everyone is given a fair opportunity to speak. All callers should state and spell their name clearly. Finally, to guarantee the Program receives proper documentation of public comment, comments via chat box will not be accepted. She then opened the line to public comment.

Heidi Parker, Executive Director for Immunize Nevada, made a brief public comment and submitted a written statement. Immunize Nevada expressed support for the proposed regulations, and she wanted to emphasize a couple points in the public hearing.

Ms. Parker stated, “All children have the right to be safe in school at childcare in the community. We recognize the long established evidenced based science that’s vaccines are safe, effective, and they save lives. We believe we have a shared responsibility to keep our communities healthy and ensure access to healthcare, increase Nevada’s vaccinations rates, and decrease the risk of vaccine preventable diseases. Given the devastating impact of the COVID-19 pandemic it’s imperative to actively reduce the bourdon of disease on Nevada’s public health and healthcare system. When everyone is vaccinated, we protect our most venerable Nevadans and our school children are able to learn in the safest environment possible. We applaud your efforts to protect Nevada’s children and families and ensure a healthy future for all.”

Jimmy Lau, Senior Associate with Ferrari Public Affairs on behalf of Dignity Health St. Rose Dominican, spoke in support of the proposed regulations.

Mr. Lau stated, “As frontline workers during this pandemic to keep our communities safe and healthy we want to do everything we can to ensure the overall public health of all Nevadans. Having standardize forms for medical and religious exemptions for childcare facilities private, public schools and universities is essential to allowing the Division of Public and Behavioral Health to collect the same data for every child and update forms when needed. It will also create better communication channels between daycare facilities schools in the state which will help inform targeted responses for outbreaks. Allowing local health officers in each area to audit schools that aren’t meeting standards is a necessity when protecting the public health of citizens. The addition of a 12th grade booster dose for meningitis is an important step to combating a very serious disease and follows CDC recommended immunization schedules. As you are well aware Nevada’s non-medical exemption rate for immunizations has increased 220% in the last 10 years, and these regulatory changes will help with the identification of high risk areas before an outbreak can occur and help mitigate the threat that low vaccination rates pose to the health of all Nevadans.”

Jody Daniels, Government Affairs with GlaxoSmith Kline, spoke in support of the proposed regulations and submitted written comments.

Joelle Gutman Dodson, Government Affairs Liaison with Washoe County Health District, spoke in support of the proposed regulations. She stated Washoe County Health District believes in the long-established evidence-based science of lifesaving immunizations. Immunizations are a pillar of public health and the Washoe County Health District wants to see the number of properly immunized children rise in our county and state.

Sheri McPartlin, Health Services Director with the Clark County School District, made a comment that from the District's standpoint if the State would allow flexibility in the timing of the date schools are required to collect the annual religious and medical exemption forms, that would be preferred. Schools would prefer the date not be set at the beginning of the school year when there are so many other forms required to be submitted and collected, to assist them in efficient operations.

Lara Allen, a member of the public, stated "I don't believe parents should have to submit this [the religious or medical exemption form] every year. Once is plenty."

Public workshop adjourned at 12:03PM.