



## GOVERNOR'S OFFICE FOR NEW AMERICANS

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### FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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## Governor's Office for New Americans Addresses Concerns with Data Privacy Protections for Undocumented Immigrants during COVID-19 Vaccine Distribution

**LAS VEGAS, Nevada** – Yesterday, Governor Steve Sisolak held a press conference and was joined by experts from the Nevada Department of Health and Human Services (DHHS) to announce updates to [Nevada's COVID-19 Vaccination Program Playbook for Statewide Operations](#). As the State's immunization team continues to implement the State's COVID-19 vaccination program, concerns over the sharing of personal information with federal agencies have been raised, especially among the undocumented immigrant community in Nevada.

While the gathering of immunization and vaccine data is critical to ensuring the State effectively distributes both doses of the COVID-19 vaccine to Nevadans, the protection of the personal information of the undocumented community and all Nevadans is of utmost importance to Governor Sisolak and the State of Nevada.

"Immigrant and refugee communities are among the hardest hit by the COVID-19 pandemic and we want to ensure they have equal access to the COVID-19 vaccines and participate in the State's vaccination program," **said Governor Steve Sisolak**. "We take their concerns seriously and the State of Nevada is committed to protecting our immunization data as outlined in our statutes."

The State of Nevada has [privacy laws](#) in place that govern the state's immunization information system or NV WebIZ. Nevada law states that all shots administered in Nevada must be recorded in NV WebIZ, which is managed by the Nevada Department of Health and Human Services, Division of Public and Behavioral Health. Information entered in NV WebIZ is confidential and access is limited to healthcare providers; the Nevada System of Higher Education or a private college or university authorized to operate in this State; childcare facilities; public schools and private schools; the Department of Health and Human Services; an insurer, regardless of whether the insurer directly covered the immunization; an agency which provides child welfare services; and the Department of Corrections.

"Nevada's privacy laws do not allow the Nevada State Immunization Program to share personally identifiable information with the federal government, only with the authorized



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groups as outlined in Nevada Administrative Code,” **said Richard Whitley, Director of the Department of Health and Human Services.** “The Program is only sharing aggregate, de-identified information regarding numbers of doses administered in Nevada to meet the federal reporting requirements.”

The Governor’s Office for New Americans (ONA) supports the state’s efforts in protecting the personal data of all Nevadans during the vaccine distribution and commends the State’s vaccination team for their tremendous work in planning and implementing the state’s COVID-19 vaccine distribution. ONA will continue to work with DHHS’ vaccination team to ensure that all immigrant and refugees in the state have access to the COVID-19 vaccine and to critical information regarding the vaccine rollout.

More information on Nevada’s COVID-19 response can be found at [NVHealthResponse.nv.gov](https://nvhealthresponse.nv.gov). Nevada’s recently updated COVID-19 Vaccination Program Playbook can be found [here](#).

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