

Nevada Public Health Leaders Urge Evidence-Based, Accessible Childhood Vaccine Guidance

NPHI and NVPHTC emphasize scientific rigor, clinician-family decision-making, and the real-world burden additional appointments can create for Nevada families - especially in rural and frontier communities.

GARDNERVILLE, Nev. - The Nevada Public Health Institute (NPHI) and Nevada Public Health Training Center (NVPHTC) today expressed concern about Executive Order 14420, “Delivering Gold Standard Childhood Vaccine Recommendations for Americans,” issued August 10, 2026. The order recommends changes to U.S. childhood and adolescent immunization guidance, including separating the combined measles, mumps and rubella (MMR) vaccine into single-disease shots and, to the maximum extent feasible, administering childhood immunizations at separate medical visits.

NPHI and NVPHTC share concerns raised by the American College of Preventive Medicine and a coalition of more than 210 medical, health, scientific, public health and patient advocacy organizations that these changes could increase confusion and create additional access barriers for families. The organizations support childhood vaccine guidance grounded in rigorous evidence, transparent scientific review, preserved access to combination vaccines, and informed conversations between families and trusted clinicians.

“Evidence matters. Access matters. Trust matters. And in Nevada, place matters.”

“A vaccine schedule is not just a clinical document; it becomes a real-world journey through transportation, time away from work, childcare, provider availability and trust. In rural and frontier Nevada, one additional appointment can mean hours of travel. Our position is nonpartisan and grounded in public health practice: families deserve clear, evidence-based information and the ability to make informed decisions with trusted clinicians without avoidable barriers.”

- Gerold Delgado Dermid, MBA, PhD(c), Executive Director



GEROLD DELGADO DERMID

MBA, PhD(c)
Executive Director
NPHI & NVPHTC

MEDIA CONTACT

gerold@nevadapublichealthinstitute.org

Why this matters in Nevada

The access implications are especially important in a state defined by distance. Nevada's 2024 Access to Health Care Report, drawing on the 2022 Nevada State Health Assessment, found that 37.5% of rural and frontier respondents identified difficulty finding a provider close to where they live or work as a barrier to care, compared with 16.9% statewide. For families in communities where routine care may already involve long travel times, additional vaccine appointments can translate into added transportation, time-off-work, childcare and scheduling burdens.

NPHI's mission is to promote, develop and advance public health leadership in Nevada, with a strong focus on strengthening local capacity and supporting rural and frontier communities. NVPHTC amplifies the public health workforce through research and skill-based education. Together, the organizations view vaccine policy not only through a clinical lens, but through the realities of access, workforce capacity, communication, trust and place.

NPHI and NVPHTC also echo national concern about renewed public discussion of debunked claims linking vaccines and autism. Clear communication should support families of autistic children and adults while keeping vaccine guidance anchored in evidence and directing attention toward productive research and services.

What NPHI and NVPHTC will continue to do

- **Strengthen the workforce.** Provide Nevada public health professionals with training, evidence-informed resources and practical communication tools for emerging and contested health issues.
- **Support local leadership and place-based implementation.** Work with health authorities, counties and community partners so national policy changes are translated in ways that reflect the distinct realities of urban, rural and frontier Nevada.
- **Build trust without adding friction.** Promote clear, respectful communication that helps families understand evidence, ask questions and make informed decisions with clinicians.

For Nevada families: If you have questions about vaccines or your child's health, speak with a trusted clinician who can discuss the evidence and your child's individual medical needs.

About the Nevada Public Health Institute

The Nevada Public Health Institute (NPHI) is a 501(c)(3) nonprofit and part of the National Network of Public Health Institutes that promotes, develops and advances public health leadership across Nevada. The statewide institute supports local and state partners through capacity building, technical assistance, workforce development and community health initiatives, with particular attention to rural and frontier communities.

About the Nevada Public Health Training Center

The Nevada Public Health Training Center (NVPHTC), housed within Nevada Public Health Institute and part of the Western Region Public Health Training Center, strengthens Nevada's public health workforce through research and skill-based education. NVPHTC assesses workforce needs and designs, implements and evaluates training for current and future public health professionals statewide.

Background resources for media

- [Executive Order 14420 \(Aug. 10, 2026\)](#)
- [American College of Preventive Medicine statement \(Aug. 10, 2026\)](#)
- [Coalition statement from 210+ medical, health and patient advocacy organizations \(Aug. 17, 2026\)](#)

Media Contact: Gerold Delgado Dermid, MBA, PhD(c), Executive Director
gerold@nevadapublichealthinstitute.org

###