

# HOW TO BE A VACCINE ADVOCATE

## SPREAD THE WORD

You don't have to be a scientist or part of an organization to make an impact on vaccine-preventable diseases in Nevada. Here are a few ways you can support immunizations for people of all ages:

Learn about vaccines and how they are safe, necessary, and effective.

Share science-based, accurate information on social media and talk to your friends and family.

Understand what life was like before we had vaccines.

Ensure vaccines and preventive health care resources are easily accessible to everyone in your community.

## WHY NOW?

In 2019, the World Health Organization (WHO) named vaccine hesitancy and refusal as a Top 10 threat to global public health, and recently stated the antivaccination movement has been a significant factor in the rise of deaths from preventable diseases.

Also in 2019, the U.S. experienced the highest number of measles cases since 1992, with cases reported in 31 states, including Nevada.



## WAYS TO TAKE ACTION

### Connect with Elected Officials

Send an email or call your representatives with factual information and a reminder that vaccinating parents are the majority in Nevada; emphasize vaccines save lives, and that you care about public health and community immunity.

Be brief, be positive, focus on your agenda - is it your kids, someone you know who is immunocompromised, your elderly mother? Identify a personal story to illustrate why vaccines are important in protecting everyone. Let them know you support strong, pro-vaccine policies.

During the legislative session, sharing your voice and opinion is an important part of the legislative process. You can testify in person or submit online, explaining your position clearly. NRS 218E.085 states it is unlawful to knowingly misrepresent facts when testifying.

### Help Build a Network

Think of 3-5 individuals with whom you have a direct connection and know would be supportive. Encourage them to get involved and invite them to join the Vax Nevada Kids group on Facebook.

### Stay Connected

Follow Immunize Nevada on social media, share our posts, and subscribe to our blog for current updates and news.

If you, your child, or family members of all ages get a vaccine, post a proud photo to social media. Tag @immunizenv!

Follow the hashtags #VaccinesWork #IVax2Protect

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