

January 16, 2026

Tuberculosis Screening Requirement

Impact on Washoe County School District

The Nevada Department of Health and Human Services (NVDHHS) wants to amend Nevada Administrative Code (NAC)441A, pertaining to communicable diseases, particularly tuberculosis. Given available Washoe County surveillance data, we are not sure what “problem” is being solved. Is there an acute problem elsewhere?

Understanding that screening can be powerful and that there could likely be benefits to the community at large; the costs associated with this endeavor are not clear and so a cost-benefit analysis hasn’t been done.

Requirement of Proposed Regulation

The proposed changes to NAC would require a process to control tuberculosis spread in an educational institution. Educational institutions would be required to “...this regulation requires a school to maintain surveillance of employees, independent contractors and volunteers for tuberculosis, including requiring such persons as a condition of performing work or volunteer service, to submit a tuberculosis risk assessment and symptom questionnaire before starting any work or volunteer activity at the school and at least once every four (4) years thereafter, or more frequently if directed by the governing board of the school district upon recommendation of the local health officer, except in cases expressly exempted under this regulation.

Without greater detail, Washoe County School District at this time must oppose the recommended changes to NAC 441A due to the adverse impact of the regulation on personnel, budget, and instruction.

Adverse Effects – Personnel/Cost/Instruction

- Including all full-time and part-time employees, WCSD employs more than 9,000 individuals. WCSD also maintains a database of active volunteers and that number is more than 10,000. The district also benefits from numerous partnerships with other governmental agencies, non-profit and for-profit partners.
- How would tracking for compliance occur?
- Results of the tuberculosis screening are protected health information and needs to be stored in a secure location. – The cost of storage and maintenance is unknown at this time.
- It is unclear whether the cost of the screening would fall to the school district or to the individual employee, contractor, or volunteer. The regulation indicates that only the initial screening for employment is the responsibility of the employee but does not indicate who pays for the subsequent

screenings. If incurred by the individual this might cause them hardship. It also would substantively impact the district and community which relies on volunteers to help support student learning.

- Likewise, the cost associated with maintaining records, tracking when follow up testing is required and notification is unknown.
- Washoe County School district is facing a budgetary shortfall and the funding that would be required to comply with the regulation would likely result in a loss of service to students.

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