



c/o Midwest Multistate Division  
3340 American Avenue, Suite F  
Jefferson City, MO 65109



office: 888-885-7025  
fax: 573-636-9576



info@nebraskanurses.org  
www.nebraskanurses.org

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Governor Pete Ricketts  
Office of the Governor  
P.O. Box 94848  
Lincoln, NE 68509

Dear Governor Ricketts,

On Monday, August 23<sup>rd</sup> nurses across Nebraska received a promotional postcard from the Department of Administrative Services recruiting nursing professionals to vacant State of Nebraska nursing positions. The postcard's prominent promotional heading was "Offering many great benefits for nursing positions, including: No mandated COVID-19 Vaccination" and elsewhere on the card, "While encouraged, State teammates are not required to have COVID-19 vaccinations."

Nurses and health care providers across Nebraska have worked tirelessly throughout the pandemic promoting measures to mitigate the spread of COVID-19 through preventative measures such as masking and getting vaccinated. Earlier this month, the largest health systems in Nebraska collaboratively enhanced these efforts by requiring COVID-19 vaccination for their employees. The consistent goal of these efforts has been to protect the safety of the public and the health care workforce. With hospitals across the state at capacity once again, mitigation efforts are critical to prevent the spread of COVID-19. Evidence continues to show the most effective way to do this is through COVID-19 vaccination.

The State of Nebraska's recruitment approach of not requiring COVID-19 vaccination being used as an incentive demeans the dedication and diligence the nursing workforce has demonstrated during the pandemic to improve the health of all Nebraskans. This promotion does not serve our state well.

**Kari Wade, EdD, MSN, RN, CNE**

*President*

**NEBRASKA NURSES ASSOCIATION**

Voice: 888.885.7025 / Fax: 573.636.9576

[nnapresident@nebraskanurses.org](mailto:nnapresident@nebraskanurses.org)

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