For much of the population, vaccination clinics can be a sensory-rich experience and present a barrier to vaccination.

People who experience sensory sensitivity or sensory overload can benefit from sensory-friendly experiences and environments. This may include Children and Youth with Special Health Care Needs (CYSHCNs), including individuals living with autism, PTSD, or hearing loss. A 2019 meta analysis indicated that sensory sensitivity is a major barrier to health care access for people living with autism.

Sensory-friendly vaccine clinics are vaccine facilities that have been adapted to be more calming on the senses. This can include changes to the environment and utilizing tools to support the vaccine experience for patients.

Citation: J Autism Dev Disord, May 2019

Ways to Create a Sensory-Friendly Vaccine Clinic

1. Remove bright and flashing lights
2. Reduce noise
3. Provide accessible bathrooms
4. Welcome caregivers
5. Provide snacks and water
6. Develop clear and concise instructions
7. Create sensory-friendly hours
Fidget toys decrease anxiety by engaging the senses. Toys included in these kits are squishy toys, pop bubble toys, and a liquid motion bubbler.

The Buzzy stimulator uses cold and mechanical stimulation on the arm to inhibit the pain of a needle injection.

Weighted blankets and pads simulate deep pressure touch, which helps relax the user by activating the parasympathetic nervous system.

Earmuffs help dampen the overwhelming sounds of a noisy clinic.

This book helps the reader understand and implement strategies for helping children cope with the anxiety experienced during a clinic visit.
USING YOUR SENSORY-FRIENDLY VACCINE KIT

Use the kit? We want to know!

Please scan the QR code below to answer a few brief questions to help us collect data on the reach, scope and use of these kits. This data will be used to inform the development and distribution of future sensory-friendly vaccine kits.

Training

In partnership with the Nevada Immunization Learning Exchange (NILE) through Immunize Nevada, NVDPBH and NCED will provide a virtual training on how to utilize these kits in late July 2022.

Following the webinar, a recording of the training will be available at the NILE webpage: NILE Webinars

Kit Care

All parts of the kit should be kept together; these kits combine items that function together as a unit. All kit contents are reusable—simply clean contents between uses with warm soap and water or disinfectant spray or wipes, then return back to your agency’s point of contact.

If kit contents become lost or damaged, NCED might be able to help:
Contact Lauren Brown at the Nevada Center for Excellence in Disabilities (NCED)
ldbrown@unr.edu
RESOURCES

Local Resources:

State of Nevada Maternal, Child, and Adolescent Health - Children and Youth with Special Healthcare Needs (CYSHCN) Program

Nevada Center for Excellence in Disabilities

NCED's Family Navigation Network CYSHCN toll-free resource call line for families and providers: (833)427-1673 NCEDFamilyNav@unr.edu

Immunize Nevada

https://www.immunizenevada.org/

Southern Nevada Health District

is providing at-home vaccinations to qualifying CYSHCN throughout Clark County 1-800-401-0946 homebound@snhd.org

Creating a Sensory-Friendly Vaccine Clinic:

- Creating a Sensory-Friendly Vaccination Clinic
- Example of a Successful Sensory-Friendly Vaccination Clinic

More on Vaccinating Children and Youth with Special Healthcare Needs:

- COVID-19 Disability Information and Access Line (DIAL)
- Talking to Patients with Intellectual and Developmental Disabilities about COVID-19 Vaccination
- Accessibility at Vaccine Clinics
- Plain Language COVID-19 Resources
- Safeguard Against Disability Discrimination During COVID-19
- Vaccinating Children with Disabilities Against COVID-19 - Physical, Sensory, and Cognitive Considerations
- Positions of Comfort - How to Hold Your Child During Vaccination
- Managing Children's Needle Fears
### Sensory-Friendly Vaccine Kits Available Across Nevada & Points of Contact to Request:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Division</th>
<th>Contact Information</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Carson City Health and Human Services</td>
<td>Jeanne Freeman</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Churchill County Health Center</td>
<td>Brooke Morrison</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Douglas County Clinic</td>
<td>Rachael Rassner</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Elko County Clinic</td>
<td>Direct point of contact pending*</td>
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<tr>
<td>Humboldt County Clinic</td>
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<td>Lander County Clinic</td>
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<td>Lincoln County Clinic</td>
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<td>Lyon County - Dayton Clinic</td>
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<tr>
<td>Lyon County - Yerington Clinic</td>
<td>Direct point of contact pending*</td>
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<tr>
<td>Mineral County Public Health Nurses Office</td>
<td>Direct point of contact pending*</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Nevada Division of Public and Behavioral Health</td>
<td>Jessica Lamb, RN</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Nye County Clinic</td>
<td>Crystal Kennedy</td>
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<tr>
<td>Nye and Esmeralda Counties Clinic</td>
<td>Crystal Kennedy</td>
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<td>Pershing County Clinic</td>
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<tr>
<td>Southern Nevada Health District</td>
<td>Sarah Lugo</td>
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<tr>
<td>Washoe County Health District</td>
<td>Lisa Lottritz</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>White Pine County Clinic</td>
<td>Direct point of contact pending*</td>
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</tbody>
</table>

*Please contact Lauren Brown at NCED: ldbrown@unr.edu

Last updated 7/19/22