NASPE Communication Awards Nomination March 2010

Submission Title: Nevada State Employee Pandemic Flu Website

Submission Category: Electronic - Website

State: Nevada

Contact Person: Lesley Henrie, Public Information Officer

Nevada State Department of Personnel

209 E. Musser St.

Carson City, NV 89701 Phone: 775-684-0113 Fax: 775-684-0124 lhenrie@dop.ny.gov

1. Please provide a brief description of the submission.

The Nevada State Personnel Pandemic Flu website is linked to the home page of the Department of Personnel website. It allows State employees, agency leaders and State Pandemic Flu Coordinators to find information relating to a pandemic event. It can also be used to communicate emergency information in the event of a severe pandemic outbreak. In September of 2009, the State of Nevada Department of Information Technology - Web Enterprise Group developed the website on behalf of the newly formed Pandemic Flu Committee. This site was part of a comprehensive program to respond to the 2009 H1N1 influenza pandemic.

One of the goals of this website is to provide information to several different groups of users including State employees, agency leaders and Agency Pandemic Flu Coordinators. For this reason information was organized into four main headings:

Useful links – this section provides general information that would be helpful to all State employees in the event of a pandemic outbreak. Links are to the CDC, State Health Division, Pandemicflu.gov, Nevada Hospitals, Nevada Schools, Urgent Care Centers and the State of Nevada H1N1 ToolKit.

Personnel – this section is primarily used by agency leaders and State Pandemic Flu Coordinators. It provides information relating to the management of State Personnel during a pandemic event. Links include: Find a Flu Shot Locator, Sick Leave Regulations, Sample Telecommuting Policy, Sample Telecommuting Agreement, Telecommuting Log, Sample Flu Report and Sample Social Distancing Guidelines.

Governor's Message – this group of links are particularly useful for all state employees and Pandemic Flu Coordinators during a severe pandemic event. Links include Press Releases, Status on Closures (only active during a severe pandemic event), and Stage Alerts (only active during a severe pandemic event).

Continuity Planning – this section is for the Pandemic Flu Coordinators and provides three links – Pan Flu COOP Template, Agency Plans (currently not active), and FAQs.

Other sections of the website include an Events and Classes section that provides details on upcoming Pandemic Flu Summits (for Pandemic Flu Coordinators) or other events as well as copies of presentations and handouts from previous meetings. A Press Release section offers information on any pandemic-related press release from State agencies and an Electronic Mail section allows users to subscribe to an electronic mailing list for updates and alerts.

One other unique aspect of the website is that the main page can be replaced during a pandemic event with another web page that provides specific details on the event. This web page has a heading that reads "A Pandemic Event has Occurred!" and details the type of event, who is affected, where it has occurred (buildings/agencies), when the event was identified, how we know the details, and provides recommendations for employees (i.e. stay at home, be prepared for delays etc.). A hotline number is also listed and a scrolling "Updates" section is available for up-to-the-minute communications.

2. How long has the submission been in existence?

The Nevada State Employee Pandemic Flu website was created and went live in September of 2009.

3. Why was the submission created?

Shortly after the 2009 H1N1 influenza outbreak, it was determined that there was an abundance of misinformation relating to the virus and that there was no central location for employees, agency leaders and Pandemic Flu Coordinators to get information and share details of how it was affecting their agencies. A State Pandemic Flu Committee was formed and one objective of the group was to provide a central location to share pandemic-related information. The Nevada State Employee Pandemic Flu website was created to meet this need.

4. How does this submission support the goals and objectives of your agenda/department?

One of the goals of the Department of Personnel is to anticipate and respond to agencies' Human Resources needs. A shortage of employees caused by a pandemic event is a potential threat to agencies and in severe cases could shut down operations. Because of this, the Department of Personnel places a great importance in helping agencies to be prepared for a pandemic event. The Nevada State Employee Pandemic Flu website supports this objective by providing a central location for pandemic-related information so that State employees, agency leaders and Pandemic Flu Coordinators can better respond to a pandemic threat and minimize or prevent disruptions of operations.

5. Have you been able to measure the effectiveness of this submission? If so, how?

The State Personnel Pandemic Flu website was part of a comprehensive effort to promote pandemic preparedness so there are no results that can be tied directly to the website. During the 2009 H1N1 pandemic, the Pandemic Flu Committee was able to post all relevant information and updates on the website and Pandemic Flu Coordinators were able to access the site for relevant information, so it was successful in achieving its purpose.

- **1. Nevada State Personnel Pandemic Flu website home page** http://dop.nv.gov/pandemic/
- 2. Nevada State Personnel Pandemic Flu website home page (during pandemic event) http://dop.nv.gov/Pandemic/index_Pandemic.html
- 3. Nevada State Personnel Pandemic Flu website upcoming events web page http://dop.nv.gov/Pandemic/Clinic.htm
- 4. Nevada State Personnel Pandemic Flu website query page (Pandemic Committee use only)

http://dop.nv.gov/Pandemic/Qry_Menu.htm



♠ ▼ ● 100% ▼

👩 😜 Internet





