

Richard Whitley, M.S.
Administrator

Tracey D. Green, M.D.
State Health Officer



Contact Name: Martha Framsted, PIO
Phone Number: 775.684.4014
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NEVADA STATE HEALTH DIVISION NEWS RELEASE

SAFETY CONCERNS PROMPT TEMPORARY FOOD PERMIT SUSPENSION for NORTH LAS VEGAS NURSING HOME FOLLOWING NEVADA STATE HEALTH DIVISION INSPECTION

Carson City – The Nevada State Health Division’s Bureau of Health Care Quality and Compliance on Tuesday briefly suspended the food establishment permit of a North Las Vegas nursing home and required the facility to bring in meals from outside restaurants after a routine survey uncovered several serious food safety violations. Problems identified at the Mission Pines Nursing & Rehabilitation Center, 2860 E. Cheyenne Ave., included a 16-square-foot hole in the ceiling creating the potential for contaminated water to leak onto the facility’s dishwashing area.

Other food-safety violations identified during the survey included chicken, beef and other potentially hazardous foods being stored at unsafe temperatures, soiled and contaminated food contact surfaces, the inability to properly wash and sanitize dishes because of the ceiling hole combined with a malfunctioning dishwasher, and an overall inability of facility staff to safely prepare food for residents. The facility is licensed to care for up to 240 residents.

A Bureau surveyor stayed on site following the identification of the food-safety violations to observe the delivery of meals from licensed restaurants to residents for the noon meal.

Following the identification of the safety concerns, the facility effected the necessary repairs within several hours, allowing the Bureau to reinstate the food permit and authorizing residents to again be served meals from its kitchen and food preparation areas. The facility still faces the potential of monetary fines depending on the final determination of the severity of the deficiencies identified during the survey.

The Nevada State Health Division’s Bureau of Health Care Quality and Compliance protects the safety and welfare of the public through the promotion and advocacy of quality health care through licensing, regulation, enforcement and education. This mission is accomplished through the Bureau’s two sections: Licensure and Certification, which regulates facilities such as nursing homes, assisted living facilities, group homes, hospitals, ambulatory surgery centers and

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Richard Whitley, Administrator

4150 Technology Way, Suite 300, Carson City, Nevada 89706
Phone (775) 684-4200, Fax (775) 684-4211
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laboratories; and Radiological Health, which evaluates and responds to hazards from sources of ionizing radiation such as X-ray machines, sources of radiation to treat cancer and mammography units.

For health facilities, more than 900 surveys are conducted each year of Nevada's licensees. More information about the Bureau may be found at: <http://health.nv.gov/>

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