



DATE: Nov. 12, 2014

TO: Southern Nevada District Board of Health Members

FROM: Joseph Iser, MD, DrPH, MSc, Chief Health Officer

SUBJECT: District Health Officer Report

Ebola Update

The Health District continues to monitor West Africa Ebola outbreak to ensure its readiness as a public health agency and a community partner in the event a suspect Ebola patient is identified in Southern Nevada. The Health District continues to meet with community partners including Las Vegas Metro Chamber of Commerce executive staff, the Clark County School District, Southern Nevada Healthcare Preparedness Coalition, and ongoing meeting with EMS providers as well as hospital partners. The Health District is also continuing to coordinate with authorities at McCarran International Airport and recently attended a meeting that included Customs and Border Control.

The Health District has established four strike teams that can be deployed to assist facilities such as the airport as needed in the assessment of suspected Ebola cases. These four-member teams are available 24-7 and rotate on-call duty on a weekly basis. Additionally, the Health District has a 24-hour on-call number available for health care providers to assist with evaluating suspect cases and has activated its Information Line for the public. The Information Line is available Monday through Friday, from 9 a.m. until 5 p.m. by calling (702) 759-INFO (4636).

On the international and national level a number of activities have taken place:

- The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) partnered with the U.S. Agency for International Development (USAID) and is working with federal agencies to take a collaborative approach to what has been deemed a national security priority.
- The National Institutes of Health (NIH) and the Food and Drug Administration (FDA) are leading the effort to develop and test vaccines and new drug treatments.
- Regional commands have been set up in Monrovia, Liberia to better coordinate the response and expedite the transportation of equipment, supplies, and personnel.
- Treatment units have been added in affected areas, as well as an additional site to train up to 500 health workers per week.
- Sixty-five U.S. Public Health Service Commission Corps health care workers have been deployed to support a Department of Defense hospital placed in Monrovia to provide care to health care workers that may become ill.
- A Department of Defense 30-member medical Ebola support team has been established to provide assistance on short notice to civilian medical professionals in the United States.

Enterovirus D68

The Health District continues to monitor for the cases of enterovirus D68 (EV-D68), the nationwide outbreak associated with a severe respiratory virus. From mid-August to Nov. 6, 2014, the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) or state public health laboratories have confirmed more than 1,116 people in 47 states and the District of Columbia with respiratory illness caused by EV-D68. The Health District has submitted several samples from suspect cases for testing. To date no cases have been confirmed in Nevada. Reported enterovirus activity is declining and the CDC expects, as with other enteroviruses, that EV-D68 infections will likely begin to decline by late fall.

Community Meetings

- Met with Clark County School Nurses on Ebola issues
- Presented Ebola overview to Las Vegas City Council
- Presented Ebola overview to Nevada Hotel and Lodging Association and
- Presented Ebola overview to City of North Las Vegas
- Various media interviews regarding Ebola
- Attended the Las Vegas Biowatch Advisory Committee (LVBAC)
- Participated in Mayor's Google Hangout to discuss Ebola preparedness
- Attended Southern Nevada Counter -Terrorism Center (SNCTC) Board of Governors Meeting
- Attended Joint SNHD/Clark County Air Quality Meeting
- Met with Las Vegas Metro Chamber of Commerce executive Staff
- Attended Nevada State Medical Association teleconference
- Participated in several teleconferences regarding Ebola
- Met with McCarran International Airport and Customs and Border Patrol authorities regarding Ebola issues
- Presented Ebola information at Clark County School District
- Attended the Southern Nevada Healthcare Preparedness Coalition meeting
- Met with EMS representatives
- Met with Senator Harry Reid regarding issues that affect the Health district
- Attended HEALS Legislative Task Force
- Attended Clark County Medical Society monthly meeting
- Met with hospital system members regarding Ebola
- Met with CDC representatives during their site visit on the Health District PHEP grant
- Presented the keynote speech at the Nevada Food Safety Task Force