



DATE: July 28, 2016

TO: Southern Nevada District Board of Health Members

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

SUBJECT: Chief Health Officer Report

Vector Surveillance Update

After first reporting St. Louis Encephalitis-positive mosquito pools in early June 2016, the Southern Nevada Health District's Vector Surveillance Program identified a sharp increase later that month. As of July 11, 2016 there are 160 St. Louis Encephalitis-positive submission pools in Clark County. While there have been no reports of human cases of St. Louis Encephalitis in Clark County since 2007, the increase of the virus in the mosquito population raises concern for the potential of disease transmission to humans.

The Health District is also reporting seven cases of Zika virus in Clark County residents for this same time frame. Seventy-seven people have been tested, and 65 results have been received. All positive cases reported by the Health District are travel associated, and updates are being posted to the [website](#) as they are confirmed. The Health District continues to advise anyone who is concerned about a possible exposure to Zika virus and who has traveled to an area where the virus is circulating to consult with a health care provider. A Zika virus diagnosis is based on travel history, clinical signs and symptoms, and laboratory blood tests. Additional information about Zika virus disease is available on the [Health District website](#) and on the [CDC website](#).

Accreditation Update

The Health District will roll out the Southern Nevada Community Health Improvement Plan (CHIP) on August 10, 2016 at 10 a.m. at the Clark County Commission Chambers. The event will include public health, health care, and non-profit partners, as well as other stakeholders. The CHIP serves as a template for addressing health disparities in Southern Nevada and is the product of the collective efforts of multiple partner agencies.

A preview of the www.HealthySouthernNevada.org website will be featured at the July 21, 2016 meeting of the Southern Nevada District Board of Health. The updated version will include new indicators and design features and has been made easier for people to interpret the data presented on the website.

All Health District directors, managers, and supervisors have received Performance Management System training. Performance Management System plans have been drafted and a district-wide introduction of the system is planned for staff.

Opioid Awareness and Resources

According to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, at least half of the more than 47,000 opioid deaths in 2014 involved a prescription for an opioid drug and the number of deaths involving opioids (including prescription pain relievers and heroin) has nearly quadrupled since 1999. During this timeframe, prescription sales in the United States quadrupled while reports of the amount of pain experienced by patients have remained constant. The risk of overdose is highest among people between the ages of 25 and 54 and for non-Hispanic whites, American Indians, and Alaskan Natives. Men are also more likely to die from an overdose than women, but women are closing the gap. In Nevada alone, 545 residents' deaths were attributed to overdose in 2014.

In March 2016, the CDC released guidance for prescribing opioids for chronic pain. These guidelines are intended for primary care physicians prescribing medication for patients experiencing chronic pain who are not in active cancer treatment, palliative care, and end-of-life care. The full document: [CDC Guideline for Prescribing Opioids for Chronic Pain – United States, 2016](#), is available on the agency's website.

Additionally, the CDC has provided a fact sheet and checklist with accessible information from the guidance document:

- [Fact Sheet: Guidelines for Prescribing Opioids for Chronic Pain](#)
- [Checklist for Prescribing Opioids for Chronic Pain](#)

Community Meetings

- Met with CDC during a site visit regarding the Environmental Health research grant studying the use of social media in foodborne illness surveillance and response.
- Participated in Nevada Public Health Institute conference call
- Met with City of Henderson management regarding Zika/Vector Surveillance
- Met with Department of Family Services to discuss potential collaboration
- Participated in Health Officers Association of California Board meeting
- Participated in California Conference of Local Health Officers Monthly Board meeting
- Participated in Nevada Health Authority teleconference
- Attended Legislative Committee on Health Care
- Met with members of the American Cancer Society regarding the upcoming Nevada Colon Cancer Roundtable
- Met with city/county representatives regarding Zika
- Traveled to Carson City to meet with Nevada DHHS staff regarding the Trauma Registry
- Met with CDC staff to discuss FERN lab
- Attended Webinar - An Overview of Health Systems Transformation: The Roles of CDC, Center for Medicare and Medicaid Innovation and ACPM

- Attended Nevada Public Health Association Advocacy and Policy Committee meeting
- Traveled to Sparks, NV for the second Public Health Laboratory Strategic Planning Meeting
- Met with Clark County School District staff to discuss collaborative Back to School Fairs
- Met with Commissioner Marilyn Kirkpatrick regarding the Health District's proposed legislative agenda
- Met with Clark County staff regarding Lead/Vector Surveillance