



**DATE:** June 22, 2017

**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

On May 31, 2017, the Southern Nevada Health District's Vector Surveillance Program identified the *Aedes aegypti* mosquitoes for the first time in Clark County. The identification of the main type of mosquito that spreads Zika, dengue, chikungunya, and other viruses in our community led to the activation of the Health District's multi-pronged public health response. The response is designed to determine the extent of the *Aedes aegypti* mosquito population in Southern Nevada, prevent the establishment of the mosquitoes in the community, reduce the risk of disease to residents, and educate and empower residents to protect themselves from mosquito bites and reduce mosquito breeding. Upon identification of the mosquitoes, staff immediately began enhanced surveillance activities in the 89032 ZIP code area of Clark County, where the mosquitoes were detected.

Environmental health specialists knocked on doors, provided information to residents in the area, and set additional traps. Additional *Aedes* mosquitoes were identified, and while none of the mosquitoes tested positive for disease, a mosquito fogging operation was implemented after midnight on Friday, June 9. The fogging operation occurred in North Las Vegas, in the area bordered by the cross streets of Alexander Road and Decatur Blvd. and Valley Drive and Gowan Road.

To date, none of the *Aedes* mosquitoes that have been tested for Zika virus have been positive. Local disease transmission can occur if a mosquito were to bite an infected person. The infected mosquito must live long enough for the virus to multiply and then to bite another person. The Health District reported 22 cases of Zika virus in Clark County residents in 2016. Twenty-one cases were travel-associated, and one was sexually transmitted. There has been one travel-associated case reported in 2017.

### West Nile Virus

The Vector Surveillance Program identified the first West Nile virus-positive mosquitoes of the season in the 89011, 89110, and 89146 ZIP codes. The Health District has reported one case of West Nile virus this season.

## **Legionnaires' Disease**

The Health District is investigating two cases of Legionnaires' disease in guests who stayed separately at the Rio All-Suite Hotel and Casino in March and April. The Health District was notified of the cases by the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention's (CDC) National Notifiable Diseases Surveillance System (NNDSS). The Health District investigation is focused on environmental testing and identifying additional cases of disease. Water samples and swabs of plumbing fixtures taken from several locations in the facility have identified the water system of the hotel as the most likely source of the *Legionella* bacteria. The *Legionella* bacteria have been identified in the casino fountain and faucets, as well as the bathroom sinks, tubs, and showerheads in guest rooms. The hotel has taken steps to disinfect its water systems and mitigate the problem. Guests who develop symptoms of pneumonia within two weeks of staying at the property are advised to contact their health care provider.

Health District staff met with representatives of the property to ensure messages were coordinated and answer questions about the investigation and process. CDC representatives were made available to provide additional information.

Information on this investigation is available on the Health District website at [www.southernnevadahealthdistrict.org/health-topics/legionellosis-faq.php](http://www.southernnevadahealthdistrict.org/health-topics/legionellosis-faq.php).

## **Influenza Update**

As of June 2, 2017 the Health District is reporting 689 flu cases in Clark County and nine deaths related to flu. This is an 8 percent increase in confirmed cases for the same period last season; however, case reports are continuing to decrease. There have been no pediatric deaths reported to the Health District this season.

## **Legislative Update**

Senate Bill 122 was signed by the Governor to establish the Account for Family Planning in the State General Fund. It requires the money in the fund be expended to award grants to local governments and non-profits to provide certain family planning services to persons who would otherwise have difficulty obtaining them. The bill is a positive step towards a reliable, centralized approach to funding these important public health services.

Senate Bill 165 was also signed by Governor Sandoval and takes effect on July 1, 2017. This bill reinstates the requirement to collect height and weight data from designated grades in Washoe and Clark County school districts. This information is vital for documenting trends in obesity rates and identifying at-risk populations to better direct resources and interventions.

## **Community Meetings**

### Week of May 29

- Met with Dr. John Packham, UNR, to discuss Nye County Commissioners meeting presentation
- Met with Captain Susan Montgomery, CDC, to discuss Chagas' Disease

- Participated in BioWatch Chair Quarterly call
- Met with Commissioner Marilyn Kirkpatrick and Councilman Bob Beers regarding matters related to SNHD
- Began ICS for *Aedes aegypti* daily meetings.
- Participated in Nevada Health Authority Conference call
- Participated in Nevada Public Health Association Advocacy meeting

#### Week of May 22

- Met with White Pines County Commissioners and presented at White Pines County Board of Public Health meeting.
- Participated in Nevada State Medical Association Legislative Core Group meeting
- Met with Andre Wade, Executive Director, The Center, to discuss issues related to SNHD
- Met with North Las Vegas Councilman Richard Cherchio, and Cass Palmer, Director of Neighborhood and Leisure Services, City of Las Vegas, regarding SNHD presence in North Las Vegas
- Participated in Nevada Public Health Advocacy teleconference
- Met with FDA staff regarding future collaboration with SNHD

#### Week of May 15

- Participated in NACCHO Board of Directors Meeting via Teleconference
- Participated in Nevada State Medical Association Legislative Core Group meeting
- Participated in Building Local Capacity to Improve Public Health and Health Equity in Rural Nevada meeting in Reno, NV
- Attended Clark County Medical Society Board of Trustees meeting
- Attended Board of Governors Bi-annual Meeting
- Provided media interviews regarding first West Nile virus case this season
- Attended Nevada Public Health Association Advocacy meeting
- Participated in Big Cities Health Coalition Membership Committee Call #2

#### Week of May 8

- Testified in support of Senate Bill 151 (Authorizes the establishment of a public health laboratory in certain counties.)
- Participated in Legislative Core Group meeting
- Met with Dr. Matt Prekupec, UNR Resident, regarding data utilization project
- Participated in Nevada State Medical Association Public Health Commission meeting
- Presented a lecture to Valley Hospital Medical Residents
- Met with Clark County staff regarding At-Risk Food Handler program
- Participated in Nevada Public Health Association Advocacy meetings
- Participated in Big Cities Health Coalition Safe Consumption Sites Work Group call

#### Week of May 1

- Participated in Big Cities Health Coalition Environmental Justice Working Group Call
- Participated in Legislative Core Group meeting
- Participated in Nevada Public Health Institute teleconference

- Met with Julian Goicoechea, State of Nevada, Department of Agriculture and Jon Pennell, Western Veterinarian Conference
- Participated in Nevada Health Authority Conference Call
- Participated in Nevada Public Health Association Advocacy meeting
- Participated in weekly Consumer Safety, Education, and Health Working Group of the Governor's Task Force for the Regulation and Taxation of Marijuana Act meeting