

Clark County Health District
625 Shadow Lane
Las Vegas, NV 89106
(702) 385-1291

News Release

Contact: Jennifer Sizemore
(702) 383-1225

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Clark County Faces “Divert” Situation

(Las Vegas, Nev. – December 7, 1999) – Historically the holiday season creates an increased demand on medical facilities, and Clark County is currently experiencing what is known as a “divert” situation. This occurs when hospitals face a shortage of critical care and emergency room beds in response to ambulance services experiencing a higher volume of calls.

In response to this situation the Clark County Health District is urging residents to utilize the appropriate medical facilities for their illnesses and injuries and to reserve the use of emergency services for life-threatening medical situations.

Dr. Kwalick, chief health officer for the Health District, states, “Each year we face this situation, and to help alleviate this problem all residents should limit the use of emergency rooms and the 9-1-1 system for critical care situations only. Family physicians and urgent care centers are the best means for receiving non-critical care.”

Valley residents can use the following guidelines for accessing medical care:

(more)

Urgent Care vs. Emergency Care

What is urgent care?

Urgent care provides treatment of injuries or illnesses that are not life threatening but need immediate attention. Typical complaints that are appropriate for urgent care include:

- Lacerations - deep cuts or wounds that may require stitches
- Sprains, strains or contusions (deep bruises)
- Mild to moderate asthma attacks
- Ear infections
- Urinary tract infections
- Upper respiratory infections
- Coughs and congestion
- Diarrhea
- Sore throats
- Insect bites
- Rashes

When should you go to the Emergency Department?

If you or someone else experiences a life-threatening illness or injury, call 9-1-1 to get professional help immediately. Examples of life threatening symptoms include:

- Severe bleeding
- Difficulty breathing
- Chest pain or pressure
- Broken bones
- Partial or total amputation of a limb
- Trauma or injury to the head
- Sudden dizziness or difficulty seeing
- Severe abdominal pain

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