



DATE: September 12, 2014

TO: Southern Nevada District Board of Health Members

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

SUBJECT: District Health Officer Report

Enterovirus D68

In August 2014, hospitals in Kansas City, MO, and Chicago, IL, reported an increase in severe respiratory illness among children. The specimens tested were originally positive for rhinovirus and enterovirus. Further testing by the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention identified enterovirus D68 (EV-D68) in specimens from patients in both locations. Several states are also investigating similar clusters of severe respiratory illness, possibly due to EV-D68; however, additional clusters have not been confirmed.

The Southern Nevada Health District tracks enteroviruses through its Pediatric Early Warning Sentinel Surveillance (PEWSS) System, though not EV-D68 specifically. The system would allow the health district to detect an increase in enteroviruses and request further testing if appropriate. To date, no increases have been detected.

Currently there are no vaccines for preventing EV-D68 infections. The health district is recommending the following precautions:

- Wash hands often with soap and water for 20 seconds (alcohol-based hand sanitizers are not effective against EV-D68), especially after changing diapers.
- Avoid touching eyes, nose, and mouth with unwashed hands.
- Avoid kissing, hugging, and sharing cups or eating utensils with people who are sick.
- Disinfect frequently touched surfaces, such as toys and doorknobs, especially if someone is sick.
- Stay home when feeling sick, and consult your health care provider if appropriate.

Accreditation Update

The Southern Nevada Health District has selected Demetria Patton as the accreditation coordinator that will oversee the health district's public health accreditation efforts. Ms. Patton brings to the health district knowledge and experience as the previous accreditation coordinator for the DeKalb County Board of Health and extensive experience with the Cobb & Douglas Public Health Department in the State of Georgia.

Currently, the Accreditation Team (A-Team) is continuing to hold domain team meetings to work on domain gap analysis projects. The health district's Organizational Quality Improvement Baseline Survey was disseminated to all staff members. The A-Team compiled the results of the health district's first quality improvement survey and sent the results to all staff members in September. The A-Team is in the preliminary stage of organizing a Quality Improvement Council. Jim Osti will serve as the lead. The accreditation communication plan was reviewed and approved. A meeting with community partners to discuss the development of the health district's Community Health Status Assessment is scheduled for September.

Tuberculosis Investigation Update

On September 8, the health district sent a follow up letter to parents of infants who were potentially exposed to tuberculosis while in the NICU at Summerlin Hospital last year. The letter was sent to inform parents that one of the infants tested recently converted to a positive skin test at their 12 month screening. In an abundance of caution, the health district is encouraging that all potentially exposed infants receive testing throughout their first year. This recommendation is consistent with guidance received from the CDC and the Curry International Tuberculosis Center.

The health district has set up a special clinic to provide testing for these infants and parents have been provided with direct contact information to set up appointment times.

Moapa Flood Update

Health district staff has coordinated with partners to respond to public health concerns related to the Moapa Flood. Activities include inspecting impacted schools, grocery stores, and food facilities as well as deploying certified Medical Reserve Corps volunteers for first aid and mental health support as requested. Additional activities will include following up with West Nile virus surveillance and coordinating any necessary mitigation activities with the County if appropriate.

Community Meetings

- Lewis Wallenmeyer, Director, Air Quality
- Dr. Eisen, Touro University
- Don Burnette/Randy Tarr, Clark County
- Loretta Moses and Natalie McKenzie, Clark County Medical Society
- Stacey Gross, Project Manager, Southern Nevada Immunization & Health Coalition
- Attended the Legislative Committee on Health Care
- Dr. Barbara Atkinson, Planning Dean, UNLV School of Medicine
- Industry Meeting regarding new Environmental Health fees
- Las Vegas Councilman and Southern Nevada District Board of Health Vice-Chair Bob Beers
- Supported activities designed to promote recycling
- Attended conference - "Creating a Market that Values Health and Well-Being"
- Participated in Nevada Health Authority monthly conference call
- Participated in California Conference of Local Health Officers (CCLHO) Board meeting conference call