



**DATE:** October 22, 2015

**TO:** Southern Nevada District Board of Health Members

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

**SUBJECT:** District Health Officer Report

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#### Multi-state Outbreak Update

The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) and Food and Drug Administration (FDA) continue to investigate a multi-state outbreak of *Salmonella* Poona infections potentially linked to imported cucumbers from Mexico and distributed by Andrews & Williamson Fresh Produce. According to the CDC, as of September 29, 2015, 732 people infected with the outbreak strains of *Salmonella* Poona have been reported from 35 states, 150 ill people have been hospitalized, and four deaths have been reported from Arizona (1), California (1), Oklahoma (1), and Texas (1). Approximately 50 percent of the ill people are children younger than 18 years of age.

Nevada is currently reporting 14 cases: Clark (9), Washoe (3), Churchill (1), and Lander (1).

#### Joint Health District, Law Enforcement Investigation

On Sept. 30, 2015, the FBI and Las Vegas Metropolitan police officers conducted a raid at a house located at 4928, E. Monroe Ave., Las Vegas, Nevada, where a person was providing unlicensed medical services. The extent of the services being provided by the individual are part of the Health District's and law enforcement's ongoing investigation. It has been reported that patients/victims were provided with a range of services that included hormone and vitamin injections. Advertised services included treatment for HIV and cancer.

The types of diseases that can be transmitted by the unsafe practices and unsanitary conditions found on the premises include serious diseases such as hepatitis b, hepatitis C, and HIV. The Health District is reviewing available records to determine the need for environmental and clinical testing.

#### Operation Rabbit's Foot

The Southern Nevada Health District participated in Operation Rabbit's Foot, a full-scale exercise involving the deliberate release of *Francisella tularensis*, which causes tularemia in humans and animals. This full-scale exercise involved local, state, and federal partners. The Health District staffed its Department Operations Center (DOC), Unified Command (UC), a

public Point of Dispensing (POD), the Clark County Multi-Agency Coordination Center (MACC), and a Joint Information Center (JIC).

The exercise provided the agency an opportunity to test multiple plans and systems.

### Nurse Family Partnership

The Health District hosted a graduation for participants of its Nurse-Family Partnership Program on October 8, 2015. Mothers, their families, community partners, and stakeholders gathered at Nevada Partners to celebrate the accomplishments of the graduates in a ceremony planned by the program nurses and Health District staff.

The local Nurse-Family Partnership was instituted by the Health District in 2008, and since that time more than 600 mothers have enrolled in the program. It is an evidenced-based home visiting program that partners registered nurses with vulnerable first-time mothers through their child's second birthday. Mothers in the early stages of pregnancy are teamed up with a Health District nurse who provides early intervention services along with intensive education throughout the pregnancy and through the child's early developmental years. The median age of a Health District client is 19 years of age, and of the more than 360 children that have been born since the inception of the program, only 27 have been born premature.

The graduation featured Health District staff and partners, with program nurses awarding their clients "diplomas," and Cody Phinney, the administrator for the Division of Public and Behavioral Health, reading a proclamation from Governor Brian Sandoval.

### Community Meetings

- Met with City of North Las Vegas leadership regarding health needs
- Met with board members regarding District issues
- Closed UNSOM resident rotations with Drs. Ahmed and Dawod
- Started UNSOM resident rotation with Dr. Subhasree Panchangam
- Attended Infection Control Conference
- Participated in NACCHO Finance Committee Meeting
- Met with Gerold Dermid, University of Nevada Reno, regarding Public Health Workforce Needs Assessment
- Participated in Facilities Advisory Board meeting
- Interviewed with media regarding heat-related death prevention
- Attended Nevada State Medical Association Council Meeting
- Attended Desert Meadows Area Health Education Council Meeting
- Met with County Commissioner Mary Beth Scow regarding Naturally Occurring Asbestos in Clark County
- Met with Michelle Gorelow, March of Dimes, regarding future collaboration
- Attended Community Health and Public Relations Committee Meeting of the CCMS
- Met with Air Quality Management staff regarding naturally occurring asbestos
- Began Incident Command Training for upcoming exercise
- Attended NSMA Medical Practice meeting

- Attended CCMS Board of Trustees meeting
- Provided interviews to media as needed