



DATE: November 17, 2016

TO: Southern Nevada District Board of Health Members

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

SUBJECT: Chief Health Officer Report

Influenza Update

The Health District continues to offer the traditional quadrivalent flu shot and the high-dose vaccine recommended for people age 65 and older to the public. This season the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention's (CDC) Advisory Committee on Immunization Practices (ACIP) recommended nasal spray flu vaccine (live attenuated influenza vaccine or LAIV) should not be used due to the low effectiveness of the vaccine against one of the predominant flu strains that circulated during the last two seasons.

As of November 8, 2016 the Health District is reporting one death related to flu in a person over the age of 65. There have been six confirmed cases reported in Clark County.

Influenza can occur throughout the year and surveillance for flu finds that most cases occur between October and May. The Health District continues to remind the public that it is not too late to receive a vaccine. Vaccination is recommended for everyone but is especially important for those most at risk for complications from the flu. At risk groups include pregnant women, and people with underlying medical conditions, people who care for infants younger than 6 months and their family members, as they are too young to receive the vaccine and vulnerable to the virus.

Accreditation Update

The Accreditation Team's Access to Health Care priority group held a demonstration of a Nurse Call Line on Monday, November 7, 2016 at the Health District. The implementation of the call line was an activity identified in the Community Health Improvement Plan that will help to address callers to the 9-1-1 system who are in need of traditional medical care versus emergency services. The Nurse Call line will be staffed by a registered nurse who can provide health assessments, health education, and referrals to non-emergency callers. The call line is an opportunity to direct callers to appropriate health care resources and accessible care as well as a mechanism to keep emergency response lines open. The event was well attended by community partners.

Progress towards accreditation continues. The domain teams continue to meet and discuss document selection and the Accreditation Coordinator created a template that will assist this process.

The Healthy Southern Nevada (HSN) site continues to be upgraded and new features include customized dashboard headers, the ability to develop new pages for the site, and updated comparison features. The new features can be viewed at: www.healthysouthernnevada.org/.

Community Meetings

- Participated in Community Engagement for Public Health Emergency Preparedness (CEPHEP) bests practices study
- Met with EPA and CDC regarding mercury collaboration
- Met with Congressman Hardy regarding issues related to rural health and public health in Nevada
- Participated in Desert Meadows Area Health Education Center meeting
- Met with Sherita Rogers, representative of The Children’s Cabinet, regarding certification programs for youth
- Met with UNLV student (Matthew Prekupec) regarding public health research project
- Participated in Nevada Health Authority conference call
- Attended “CDC Guideline for Prescribing Opioids for Chronic Pain – United States, 2016,” sponsored by the Nevada State Medical Association
- Met with Dr. Christensen, Nevada Health Centers, regarding possible collaborative efforts
- Met with Dr. Ihsan Azzam, Nevada Department of Health and Human Services, regarding naturally occurring asbestos related issues in Southern Nevada
- Participated in Nevada Association of Local Health Officials teleconference
- Attended Nevada State Medical Association Council Meeting
- BioWatch Webinar: DoD Risk-Mitigated Spiking Materials for Replacing Irradiation Inactivate Select Agents, sponsored by the US Department of Homeland Security
- Met with Dr. Miriam Bar-on, Professor of Pediatrics at University Medical Center, to discuss the details of Interdisciplinary Grand Rounds
- Met with Dr. Ghazal Mofrad to discuss upcoming project topics
- Participated in quarterly collaboration meeting with Clark County School District staff
- Participated in Board of Governors meeting
- Met with lobbyists regarding strategic update
- Met with Ms. Kathleen Sandoval, Children’s Cabinet, and staff, regarding potential collaborative efforts
- Participated in the Trauma Registry Stakeholders meeting
- Met with the FDA in California to tour lab and discuss opportunities between SNHD and the FDA