



DATE: January 25, 2017

TO: Southern Nevada District Board of Health Members

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

SUBJECT: Chief Health Officer Report

Influenza Update

During week 1 (Dec. 31, 2017 – Jan. 6, 2018), influenza activity increased sharply in the United States. Nevada was identified as experiencing high influenza-like illness (ILI) activity. As of Jan. 6, a total of 585 confirmed cases of influenza and 10 deaths have been reported in Clark County. The percentage of emergency room visits for ILI increased from 5.9 percent in week 52 of 2017 to 6.8 percent in week 1 of 2018. Approximately 52 percent of area ER visits for ILI were children under 18 years of age. Up to date local flu information is available on the Health District's website at www.southernnevadahealthdistrict.org/stats-reports/influenza-surveillance.php. The Health District continues to encourage everyone 6 months and older to receive a flu vaccine if they have not already done so.

Influenza Vaccine Effectiveness

Reports claiming the flu vaccine is expected to be only 10 percent effective this season are based on Australia's interim estimate of the vaccine's benefit against one flu virus (H3N2) that circulated during past flu seasons. Because vaccine effectiveness cannot be accurately predicted during a current season, it is too soon to evaluate this year's match to the strains of flu currently circulating. However, last season's vaccine effectiveness in the United States was estimated at 39 percent, and the effectiveness against H3N2 viruses was only slightly lower at 32 percent. The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) believes that these estimates are better at forecasting the flu vaccine benefits for the United States. This is assuming there are minimal changes to the current viruses that are circulating.

The flu vaccine is the best protection against the flu. The Health District is encouraging health care providers to provide consistent messages to their patients on the benefits of being vaccinated each year. These include:

- The flu shot won't make you sick.
- While flu vaccine effectiveness may vary, it is the best way to prevent flu illness and serious complications from the flu, including those that result in hospitalization.
- Even when vaccine effectiveness is in the range of 30 to 60 percent, flu vaccination prevents millions of illnesses each year and tens of thousands of flu-related hospitalizations each year.

- While the vaccine is not perfect and some people who get vaccinated may still get the flu, there is research that suggests that people who get the flu vaccine will have milder illness.

Getting vaccinated protects people around you. This includes those more vulnerable to developing serious illness, such as babies, young children, the elderly, and people with certain chronic health conditions.

Accreditation Update

The Health District continues to upload documents to the e-PHAB system in preparation for its February submission date. The agency has completed 86 percent of the process which includes identifying and uploading documents that demonstrate programs and services have met the standards and measures as outlined by the accreditation process.

For more information on public health accreditation or to read the Health District's accreditation newsletters, access our website at www.southernnevadahealthdistrict.org/pha/.

Food Safety Partnership Meeting

The Health District Environmental Health Division is hosting a Food Safety Partnership meeting in Boulder City on January 24, 2018 from 10 a.m. – 11:30 a.m. at the Elaine K. Smith Center, 700 Wyoming St. The meeting will be followed by a free Food Safety Training class offered in English from 12:30 p.m. – 2 p.m. and in Spanish from 2 p.m. -3:30 p.m. The meeting is open to all interested parties. It is an opportunity for stakeholders to interact with environmental health staff, ask questions, present issues of concerns, and share ideas in an open forum. Interested participants can register for the training at www.SNHD.info/ehrcp.

Mobile Clinic

The Health District now has a Mobile Clinic serving the immunization needs of Southern Nevada children and adults. The mobile unit is currently scheduled to be at two locations through April 2018.

Mobile Clinic schedule:

Windmill Library

1st and 3rd Wednesday of each month

10 a.m. – 1 p.m.

[7060 W. Windmill Ln.](#)

[Las Vegas, NV 89113](#)

Skyview YMCA

2nd and 4th Monday of each month

10 a.m. – 1 p.m.

[3050 E. Centennial Pkwy.](#)

[North Las Vegas, NV 89081](#)

For additional information about the clinic visit our website at www.southernnevadahealthdistrict.org/mobile-clinic/.

Community Meetings

Week of December 18

- Met with CDC staff regarding Deputy roles

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- Met with State, Tribal, Local and Territorial (STLT) Subcommittee Advisory Committee to the Director of CDC
- Met with National Institute for Occupational Safety and Health (NIOSH) staff regarding potential investigation
- Met with City of North Las Vegas leadership regarding future collaborative efforts
- Participated in Clark County Medical Society Executive Council Meeting
- Participated in NACCHO By Laws meeting
- Participated in Nevada Association of Local Health Officers (NALHO) teleconference

Week of December 11

- Participated in the Ebola Communication and Transport Tabletop Exercise in Carson City
- Met with Kevin Dick, District Health Officer, Washoe County Health Department and Nicki Aaker, Director, Carson City Health & Human Services regarding current and future collaborations
- Met with John Packham, Director of Health Policy Research, University of Nevada School of Medicine, regarding issues related to SNHD
- Participated in ELC Governance Team meeting
- Participated in Big Cities' Health Coalition Environmental Justice Working Group Staff-Chair Check In/Prep Call
- Met with Robert Freymuller, CEO/Managing Director and Karla Perez, VP Acute Division, both of Summerlin Hospital, to discuss emerging community issues

Week of December 4

- Participated in the Big Cities' Health Coalition Environmental Justice Working Group
- Met with D. Kathleen Peterson to discuss emerging public health issues
- Attended "The Opioid Epidemic and Its' Impact on Local Healthcare Providers" at Las Vegas City Hall Chambers
- Participating in Nevada Public Health Institute (NPHI) meeting
- Participated in Health Officers of California Board meeting
- Met with Dr. Seme Dako to discuss a potential Preventive Medical Residency
- Participated in Nevada Health Authority Conference Call
- Attended State Board of Health meeting
- Participated in Big Cities Health Coalition 2017 Monthly Call

Week of November 27

- Participated in NACCHO Finance Meeting
- Facilitated monthly Mentorship Program with Joey Smith, Public Health County Director, Montgomery County Health Department
- Participated in Nevada Association of Local Health Officers (NALHO) meeting
- Met with Amy Roukie, Administrator, Nevada Department of Health and Human Services and Antonina Capurro, Nevada State Dental Health Officer to discuss current and future collaborative efforts.

Week of November 20

- Participated in 1:1 with NACCHO Consultant, Bruce Lesley, regarding the Strategic Planning Process and the work, strengths, weakness and future direction of NACCHO
- Provided media interviews in person and over the phone as needed
- Participated in Big Cities Health Coalition Environmental Justice Work Group Chairs/Staff Check-In meeting
- Participated in Clark County Medical Society Board of Trustees meeting

Week of November 13

- Met with Richard Whitley, Director, NV Department of Health and Human Services
- Met with NACCHO Board Consultant, Bruce Lesley
- Participated in Las Vegas BAC meeting
- Participated in NACCHO Board of Directors meeting
- Attended Crohn's and Colitis Foundation meeting
- Participated in Nevada Public Health Association Advocacy and Policy Committee meeting
- Participated in Big Cities Health Coalition 2017 Monthly Call

Week of November 6

- Participated in Big Cities Health Coalition Environmental Justice Working Group Call
- Met with Victor Arredondo, Senior Director, American Heart Association, to provide input regarding the needs and priorities of Southern Nevada
- Attended Desert Meadows Area Health Education Council Meeting

Week of October 30

- Participated in Nevada Public Health Institute teleconference
- Participated in Nevada County Health authorities conference call.