



**DATE:** February 22, 2017

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

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

**SUBJECT:** Chief Health Officer Report

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### Influenza Update

During week 5 (Feb. 28, 2018 – Feb. 3, 2018), influenza activity continued to increase in the United States. Nevada was one of 43 states experiencing high influenza-like illness (ILI) activity. As of Feb. 3, 2018, a total of 959 confirmed cases of influenza and 22 deaths have been reported in Clark County. The proportion of emergency room visits for ILI increased from 5.1 percent in week 4 to 5.8 percent in week 5. Approximately 55 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.snhd.info/flustats](http://www.snhd.info/flustats). The Health District continues to encourage everyone 6 months and older to receive a flu vaccine if they have not already done so.

### World TB Day

Every year on March 24 the health care community commemorates World TB Day to bring attention to a preventable disease that still impacts many people in the United States and around the world. This year's theme is "Wanted: Leaders for a TB-Free United States. We can make history. End TB." It is a call for health care partners to work together on a local, national, and international scale to eliminate the disease. Health care providers are instrumental in this process. For many patients, TB can present as a bad cold or respiratory infection that won't go away. Physicians should always consider the possibility of TB when examining a patient with an ongoing respiratory infection, especially if it is accompanied by a persistent cough, night sweats, loss of appetite, and fatigue.

As the leading provider of TB services in Southern Nevada, the Health District's Tuberculosis Treatment and Control Clinic offers programs to ensure people with active TB disease are treated and that people who are exposed to TB are evaluated and treated, if appropriate, to prevent the further spread of the disease. The Health District's TB Clinic staff also work with health care partners to provide information and education on detection, treatment, and prevention. Providing education to both clients and medical providers is a fundamental component of TB control and a continuing priority for the Health District. Nationwide, the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) reports there were a total of 9,272 TB cases in 2016. This is a decrease from the number of cases reported in 2015 and the lowest case count on record in the United States. The number of cases in Clark County has declined as well, from 72 cases in 2015 to 47 cases in 2016.

World TB Day is an opportunity to shine a light on this critical issue for one day a year. As health care professionals, we have a responsibility to incorporate TB awareness and education into our practice every day. Working together we can end TB. For more information about the Health District's TB Treatment and Control Clinic go to our website at [www.southernnevadahealthdistrict.org/tb/index.php](http://www.southernnevadahealthdistrict.org/tb/index.php). For additional information on World TB Day 2018 visit the CDC site at [www.cdc.gov/tb/worldtbdays/default.htm](http://www.cdc.gov/tb/worldtbdays/default.htm).

### **Congenital Syphilis**

In 2016, the number of congenital syphilis (CS) cases in the United States was the highest it's been since 1998, with a rate of 15.7 cases per 100,000 live births. This same year, Nevada ranked third for cases of CS, with a rate of 33.5 cases per 100,000 live births. The majority of these cases were reported in Clark County, with 11 cases in 2016 and an additional 18 in 2017. Congenital syphilis cases represent a sentinel event within the public health and health care systems. These cases signify opportunities missed at two levels: primary prevention among women of reproductive age and men who have sex with women, and prevention of mother-to-infant transmission among pregnant women who are already infected.

The Health District is working with its state and community partners to address this issue by employing a variety of strategies. These include better understanding the current outbreak, addressing the breakdown in testing and prenatal care, and preventing primary cases of syphilis through enhanced prevention and treatment programs.

### **Accreditation Update**

The Health District submitted all its documentation for Public Health Accreditation on Jan. 30, 2018, and formally entered its application on Jan. 31. The Public Health Accreditation Board (PHAB) will now assign an accreditation specialist to review the submitted documents for accuracy and compliance with the required standards and measures. Upon completion of the review, a site team will be assigned to the Health District within 3-6 months. The PHAB-trained site visitors will interview the leadership team, key agency staff, and community partners as part of their review and visit. During their interviews, the team members will ensure the documentation submitted accurately reflects the work and programs of the agency. A decision regarding the accreditation of the Health District will be made shortly after the site visit is completed.

### **Community Meetings**

#### Week of January 29

- Attended the Nevada Public Health Foundation Board of Director's meeting in Reno, NV
- Met with Julia Peek, Deputy Administrator, Community Services, NDHHS, regarding Academic Public Health Agency
- Participated in CDC January Finance Think Tank call
- Participated in Nevada Association of Local Health Officers (NALHO) meeting
- Participated in the Southern Nevada Forum at Las Vegas City Hall
- Participated in the NACCHO Bylaws Change meeting
- Participated in the Nevada Health Authority Conference call

#### Week of January 22

- Met with CCSD staff in quarterly meeting/ update
- Participated in NACCHO Finance Committee conference call
- Mentored Joey Smith, Montgomery County (TN) Public Health Director
- Met with Shawn Gerstenberger, UNLV, regarding Residency Grant
- Participated in Nevada Population Health Conference 2018, sponsored by Holland & Hart, LLP
- Presented rural health dental plan to White Pine Board of Health
- Participated in Nevada Public Health Institute meeting
- Participated in NACCHO Bylaws meeting
- Provided media interviews as needed
- Participated in Point of Dispensing (POD) exercise

#### Week of January 15

- Presented "Health Services for Rural Nevada" at the Nye County (Pahrump) Board of Commissioners meeting
- Participated in the Clark County Medical Society Board of Trustees meeting
- Provided media interviews as requested
- Met with Tameka Brazile, EPS Manager, Multnomah County (Oregon) Health Department regarding organizational structure due to their significant turnover in leadership staff
- Participated in Health Officers Association of California Legislative meeting
- Met with Mia Fernandez, Nevada Center for Victims of Crimes, to discuss potential collaborative efforts
- Participated in the Nevada Public Health Association (NPHA) Advocacy & Policy Committee Monthly Conference call

#### Week of January 8

- Met with Paul Johnson, Executive Director, Institute Review Committee, to discuss options for future Accreditation Council for Graduate Medical Education (ACGME) Sponsoring Institution
- Met with City of Henderson staff regarding financial collaboration
- Met with Elaine Glaser, Chief Operating Officer, Valley Hospital Medical Center, to discuss future collaborative efforts
- Participated in the Nevada Association of Local Health Officers (NALHO) quarterly meeting
- Met with Dr. Thomas Hunt, Professor and Chair, Department of Family Medicine, Roseman College of Medicine, to discuss new Family Medicine Residency Program
- Participated in the Interim Health Committee meeting
- Met with Councilman Steve Seroka to discuss his concerns regarding the medical/health analysis of fish pedicures
- Participated in the Big Cities Health Coalition (BCHC) 2018 monthly call
- Provided media interviews as required

#### Weeks of December 25 and January 1

- Met with CDC staff regarding Deputy roles
- Met with Mineral County leadership to prepare for 2/21 County Commissioners meeting
- Participated in Health Officers Association of California (HOAC) meeting
- Participated in Nevada Health Authority Conference call