



DATE: April 26, 2018

TO: Southern Nevada District Board of Health Members

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

SUBJECT: Chief Health Officer Report

Influenza Update

In keeping with Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) guidelines, Health District staff in the Office of Epidemiology and Disease Surveillance collaborated with its counterparts in the Vital Records program and the Nevada Department of Public and Behavioral Health to review and update outcome data for previously reported cases of influenza. This review did not add to the total influenza case count reported by the Health District but added to the verified death count. This process reflects the fluid nature of disease reporting, the arduous work it is, and the ongoing effort staff takes to make sure they are providing accurate data to health care partners, the media, and the public.

Education and outreach are integral to the Health District's efforts to provide timely information to its health care partners and the public. Updated flu statistics are released each week and posted on the agency's website at [Influenza Surveillance](#). The information provided includes the number of confirmed cases in Clark County, hospitalizations, and deaths for each week of the flu season. The Health District also posts an Influenza Surveillance Snapshot each week with a breakdown of influenza reports by virus strain, the weekly percentage of emergency room visits for Influenza-Like Illness (ILI), and additional charts and information useful to analyzing the season, examining seasonal trends, and providing information to CDC.

STD Awareness Month

April is STD Awareness Month and the Southern Nevada Health District partnered with the AIDS Healthcare Foundation to offer testing for HIV and STDs through its mobile testing unit at locations throughout the valley. This year's theme is "Treat Me Right," a call for health care providers and patients to work together to foster more trusting relationships and more open communication to promote increased access to care, testing, diagnoses, and treatment. The Health District also encourages people to discuss their sexual health with their intimate partners and recommends HIV testing at least once for most people and annually for people who are at higher risk of infection. The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) provides additional information about how patients and health care providers can work together on its website at [Patients: You Matter. Your Health Matters](#).

According to the CDC, there were 1.59 million cases of chlamydia, 468,514 cases of gonorrhea, and 27,814 cases of syphilis reported in the United States in 2016. In Clark County in 2017, there were 12,500-plus cases of chlamydia reported as well as 4,592 cases of gonorrhea and 966 cases of early syphilis, which is also reported as infectious syphilis. High STD infection rates continue to be reported among young people between the ages of 15 and 24, among gay and bisexual men, and in pregnant women across the United States.

Free HIV screenings are available every Monday through Thursday from 10:30 a.m. – 5:30 p.m. at The Southern Nevada Gay and Lesbian Center (The Center) located at 401 S. Maryland Parkway, call (702) 733-9800 for more information. The Southern Nevada Health District's Sexual Health Clinic provides testing, treatment, exams, referrals, and counseling for \$40; HIV testing is also available. Services are available Monday through Friday from 8 a.m. – 4 p.m. at the Main Public Health Center located at 280 S. Decatur Blvd. All visits are confidential.

Kick Butts Day

To encourage colleges and universities to adopt smoke-free policies, the tobacco prevention youth group, BreakDown, launched a month-long initiative called "The Next Step" on Wednesday, March 21, to commemorate the annual Kick Butts Day observance. The Next Step is an effort to mobilize students at 10 local high schools to support smoke-free college and university campuses nationwide. BreakDown's initiative originated from its members' "next step" in their lives and their preferences to attend smoke-free higher education institutions.

In Nevada 7.5 percent of high school students smoke cigarettes and 25.6 percent use e-cigarettes. It is estimated that each day across the country, about 2,300 children under the age of 18 will try their first cigarette and more than 350 of them will become new, regular smokers. Each year, approximately 1,000 Nevadans under age 18 become daily smokers. About 80 percent of adult smokers became regular smokers before the age of 18. It is estimated that 4,100 Nevadans die each year due to smoking-related illnesses. This figure is higher than the number of people who die from AIDS, motor vehicle accidents, substance abuse, homicides, and suicides. For additional information about tobacco's toll in Nevada, visit the Campaign for Tobacco Free Kids' [Toll of Tobacco in Nevada](#) page.

The Southern Nevada Health District's Tobacco Control Program combats youth tobacco use by developing programs that go beyond traditional methods, such as extensive social marketing programs, teen-focused counter-advertising activities, and community outreach programs. By using the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention's (CDC) Best Practices models, the Tobacco Control Program has developed activities and policy efforts that have contributed to a significant decrease in youth and adult smoking rates, expanded programs directed toward diverse communities, and increased knowledge of the dangers of secondhand smoke. State residents can contact the Nevada Tobacco Quitline at 1-800-QUIT-NOW (1-800-784-8669) from a Nevada area code to access a free, phone-based service for anyone age 13 or older. Callers will speak with a 'coach' who can offer quitting assistance in any language. The Quitline is available Monday through Sunday, 4 a.m. – 10 p.m. (PST). Smokers can also visit the Get Healthy Clark County website's [Quit Smoking](#) page for tips and resources to help.

Community Meetings

Week of March 26

- Participated in NACCHO Finance Committee meeting
- Participated in legislative preparation meeting
- Mentored Joey Smith, Public Health County Director, Montgomery County Tennessee
- Participated in Southern Nevada Behavioral Health Policy Board meeting
- Participated in Nevada State Medical Association Council meeting
- Participated in 2018 Nevada Population Health Conference Committee meeting
- Met with Kristin Musolin, CDC, National Institute for Occupational Safety and Health (NIOSH) regarding a potential occupational health exposure

Week of March 19

- Participated in the Interim Legislative Health Committee meeting
- Participated in the Clark County Medical Society Board of Trustees meeting
- Participated in the Health Officers Association of California Legislative Committee meeting
- Participated in the Nevada Public Health Association (NPHA) Advocacy & Policy Committee meeting
- Participated in the NACCHO Nominations Committee meeting
- Met with Tina Coker, CNO, Henderson Hospital, regarding community related issue

Week of March 12

- Participated in Clark County Medical Society GAC meeting
- Facilitated County Health Rankings meeting
- Participated in California Conference of Local Health Officers (CCHLO) Health Equity Committee Meeting
- Participated in SNPT DM AHEC meeting

Week of March 5

- Met with Dr. Ray Alden, Touro University to discuss future collaborative efforts
- Presented "Health Services for Rural Nevada" to Esmerelda County Board of County Commissioners
- Met with Marcie Zajac of Senator Dean Heller's office regarding SNHD and community healthcare
- Participated in the Nevada Association of Local Health Officer's meeting
- Participated in the Nevada Public Health Institute meeting
- Participated in the Opioid Crisis Working Group
- Participated in the Nevada Health Authority Conference call
- Participated in the County Health Rankings & Roadmaps Planning call
- Participated in the Nevada State Board of Health meeting