



DATE: May 24, 2017

TO: Southern Nevada District Board of Health Members

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

SUBJECT: Chief Health Officer Report

Vector-borne Illness Update

The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) reports that illnesses from mosquito, tick, and flea bites have more than tripled in the United States. Last summer, the Southern Nevada Health District identified *Aedes aegypti* mosquitoes in Clark County. This is the species that can spread diseases like Zika, dengue fever, and chikungunya. Mosquitoes that carry the viruses that cause West Nile and St. Louis Encephalitis are commonly found in our community. Women who are pregnant, partners of pregnant women, and couples considering pregnancy must still consider the risks of traveling to countries where Zika transmission is occurring. These activities and more are a stark reminder that vector-borne diseases are a growing public health concern on a local, national, and international scale. The CDC reports that more than 640,000 cases of diseases caused by the bite of a mosquito, tick, or flea occurred between 2014-2016. During this time, seven new tickborne diseases have been introduced into the United States, and the country has experienced its first outbreaks of chikungunya and Zika. These vectors can be introduced into new regions of the world through commerce and trade, infecting travelers who then facilitate the spread of disease.

Our existing public health infrastructure is not prepared to meet the increased demand placed on it by this continuing threat. The CDC notes more than 80 percent of vector control organizations report needing improvement in one or more of the five activities identified as essential to controlling mosquito activities. These activities are known as the five core competencies and were developed based on guidance from the CDC and the American Mosquito Control Association.

The five core competencies include:

- Routine mosquito surveillance through standardized trapping and species identification
- Treatment decisions using surveillance data
- Larviciding, adulticiding, or both
- Routine vector control activities (e.g., chemical, biological, source reduction, or environmental management)
- Pesticide resistance testing

Supplemental competencies are:

- Licensed pesticide application
- Vector control activities other than chemical control (e.g., biological, source reduction, or water management)
- Community outreach and education campaigns regarding mosquito-borne diseases, how they spread, and how to prevent infection
- Regular communication with local health departments regarding surveillance and epidemiology
- Outreach (e.g., communication and/or cooperation) with nearby vector control programs

The Health District's Mosquito Surveillance Program completes at least some activities in each of these areas. It is important to note that the Health District's program is not a mosquito abatement program and does not receive dedicated funding to conduct vector control activities. Responsibilities for control and abatement are spread throughout each of the jurisdictions in Clark County. Despite the lack of dedicated funding and resources, the Health District has taken a proactive approach to mosquito control in its efforts to protect the public health of the community.

This season, the Health District continues to remind the public to protect themselves from mosquito bites, to eliminate standing water around their homes, and to report mosquito activity to the Mosquito Surveillance Program at (702) 759-1633. More information on mosquito activity in Southern Nevada and additional prevention information is available on the Health District website at www.southernnevadahealthdistrict.org/mosquito-control/index.php.

Enhanced Flu Surveillance Activities

Due to increased flu activity this season, the Southern Nevada Health District's Office of Epidemiology and Disease Surveillance is working with the Health District's Vital Records program and the Nevada Division of Public and Behavioral Health to review and update previously reported cases of flu. Based on this review, the Health District released an updated number of reported deaths for Clark County on April 23, 2018. This process does not add to the total flu case count for the season. The Health District conducts surveillance in keeping with CDC guidelines. When flu cases are reported to the Health District, the outcome of a case may be delayed. Staff members conduct investigations that involve reviewing patient records, death certificates, and laboratory reports, as well as verifying case definitions to reconcile surveillance activities.

As of May 5, 2018, there have been 59 confirmed deaths from the flu reported in Clark County. Updated surveillance reports are available at www.southernnevadahealthdistrict.org/stats-reports/influenza-surveillance.php.

Accreditation Update

The Healthy Southern Nevada (HSN) website has recently added 11 new disability indicators to the website. The indicators include adults age 65-plus with a disability as well as adults with hearing or vision difficulty. This brings the number of health indicators on the website to more

than 250. Health indicators provide valuable insight into the health of a population. The Healthy Southern Nevada website is available at www.healthysouthernnevada.org/.

The Quality Improvement team is spearheading a new project to support internal communications. The team is working with staff to examine existing internal communication tools, and to develop strategies on how to improve communication.

These activities support the overarching Accreditation goals of advancing performance and quality improvement.

Community Meetings

Week of April 23

- Participated in the National Association of County and City Health Officials (NACCHO) - Finance Committee by phone
- Presented at Interim Health Committee meeting
- Provided tour of SNPHL for Washoe County Health Officers and Nevada State Health Department staff
- Facilitated Nevada Association of Local Health Officers (NALHL) Biannual Meeting
- Attended webinar "Transformation Talk: Foundational Public Health Shared Services Projects"
- Participated in NACCHO Urgent Board Executive Session
- Met with Dr. Nancy Messonnier, Director of the National Center for Immunization and Respiratory Diseases for National Infant Immunization Week

Week of April 16

- Participated in the NACCHO Conference call
- Met with Jeffrey Ebersole and David Cappeli, both from UNLV regarding research opportunities/county oral health data
- Participated in the Governor's Opioid State Action Accountability Taskforce meeting
- Participated in Southern Nevada Counter Terrorism Center (SNCTC) Board of Governors meeting
- Participated in Southern Nevada Behavioral Health Policy Board

Week of April 9

- Participated in Nevada Association of Local Health Officers (NALHO) meeting
- Met with Dr. Terry Kerns, Office of the Nevada Attorney General, regarding opioid use
- Met with local health officers and state regarding presentation to the legislature
- Met with Kristin Musolin, CDC, regarding confidential draft of suspected breast cancer cluster in Southern Nevada
- Participated in Big Cities Health Coalition (BCHC) 2018 Monthly Call

Week of April 2

- Participated in the Nevada State Medical Association Public Health Commission meeting
- Participated in the Interim Health Committee Presentation meeting
- Participated in the Healthcare meeting of the Southern Nevada Forum
- Participated in the Clark County Medical Society Delegates meeting
- Flew to Reno, NV to attend the Nevada Public Health Foundation (NPHF) Strategic Planning meeting and the School of Community Health Sciences - University Nevada Reno - Making Health Happens conference
- Presented at the "Immunize Nevada" conference
- Participated in Health Officers Association of California (HOAC) Board meeting
- Met with Kristy Keller, Project Director and Julie Murray, CEO, both of Moonridge Group, to discuss future collaborative efforts
- Participated in Nevada Health Authority Conference call
- Participated in Foundational Public Health Services Overview meeting