



DATE: June 28, 2017

TO: Southern Nevada District Board of Health Members

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

SUBJECT: Chief Health Officer Report

Arbovirus Update

The Southern Nevada Health District conducts routine surveillance for arboviruses in mosquitoes and arboviral disease in humans. The Health District's Vector Surveillance program monitors the local mosquito population for West Nile Virus, St. Louis Encephalitis, and Western Equine Encephalitis. In addition to monitoring mosquitoes for arboviruses, program staff also provides information about the types of mosquitoes present in Southern Nevada. This information is important, especially when faced with emerging disease like the Zika virus.

Arboviral diseases in humans are reportable to the Health District's Office of Epidemiology and Disease Surveillance. Currently, West Nile Virus and St. Louis Encephalitis are the only locally acquired arboviral diseases that have been reported to the Health District. Sporadic investigations of travel-associated cases of Zika virus, Dengue, and Chikungunya have been conducted.

As of June 15, 2018, the Health District has tested five people for the Zika virus. The Health District tested 156 people in 2016 and 91 people in 2017. Testing guidelines were updated on July 24, 2017 by the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) to no longer recommend testing for asymptomatic pregnant women who only have one recent exposure event.

Mosquito Surveillance:

Aedes aegypti mosquitoes were first identified in the 89032 ZIP code in 2017. In 2018, 10 female *Aedes aegypti* have been identified in the same ZIP code. Environmental Health staff members have set 651 traps throughout Clark County and submitted 759 testing pools, representing 14,065 mosquitoes, to the Southern Nevada Public Health Laboratory for arboviral analysis. All samples have been negative for disease.

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.

National Healthy Homes Month

In June, the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) kicked off its second annual National Healthy Homes Month. The goal of the month is to raise awareness of what makes a home healthy and to strengthen coordination between housing and health at the federal, state, and local levels. The initiative was created by HUD's Office of Lead Hazard Control and Healthy Homes (OLHCHH). This year's theme is "Check Your Home - Protect Your Family." Its goal is to build awareness of the importance of completing a home assessment of potential health hazards and empowering people to make changes to create the healthiest homes possible for their families. Physicians and health care providers play a vital role in educating parents and caregivers about healthy homes education. Exposure to home-related health risks can result in increases in asthma, lead poisoning, and other serious health conditions in children. Working with parents, health care providers can help promote the healthy growth and development of children.

A continuing area of concern related to children is the risk of lead poisoning in the home. In May 2012, the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) agreed with recommendations of the Advisory Committee on Childhood Lead Poisoning Prevention (ACCLPP) to lower the threshold for identifying children in need for follow up for elevated blood lead levels (BLL) from 10µg/dL to 5µg/dL of lead in blood. The CDC has long said there is no level of lead in the body that is safe. The ACCLPP based its recommendation on a growing number of scientific studies that show lead levels between 5µg/dL and 10µg/dL have damaging effects on children's cognitive areas, as well as their cardiovascular, endocrine, and immunological systems. All children are considered at risk for lead poisoning, and it is recommended they receive a blood lead test at 12 months and 24 months of age. Children between 3 and 6 years of age should undergo a screening if they have never been tested. If a blood lead test result equal to or greater than 10µg/dL is obtained by capillary specimen it must be confirmed using a venous blood sample.

In Nevada, potential (non-paint) sources of lead include some imported spices, candies, candy wrappers, herbal remedies, and toys, as well as jewelry, ceramicware, and glazed pottery. Because the damage done by exposure to lead cannot be corrected, the Health District has developed educational materials and resource guides for parents that are available in English and Spanish. The resources are all available on the Health District [website](#) and include a comprehensive informational brochure, a fact sheet that outlines five steps parents can take to lower their child's lead levels after an exposure, and a list of testing and intervention resources.

Lead poisoning is 100 percent preventable. Health care and public health professionals are key resources for parents in their efforts to make their homes safe and healthy environments for their children. Additional resources about testing recommendations, environmental sources of lead, and educational materials are available on the CDC website at www.cdc.gov/nceh/lead/default.htm. More information, including hours of operation for the Health District's Blood Lead Screening Clinic, is available at www.southernnevadahealthdistrict.org/clppp/index.php.

2018 Las Vegas Legionella Summit

The Health District is hosting a 2018 Las Vegas Legionella Summit on July 12-13 at the South Point Hotel Casino. The Summit will provide attendees the opportunity to learn from leading experts in epidemiology and environmental health. Experts from governmental agencies, hospitals, and industry will provide attendees with practical tools for identifying risks and implementing prevention and mitigation strategies. Day 2 of the Summit will offer a full day ANSI-accredited certificate course titled Sustainable Comprehensive Water Management Programs for the Built Environment. The course will educate facility management, design, and public health professionals on how to develop a water management program that optimizes the total cost of water systems through improving safety and efficiency. For more information and to register for the Legionella Summit, go to <https://med.unr.edu/cme/2018legionellasummit>.

Accreditation Update

The Public Health Accreditation Board (PHAB) has confirmed the dates of the Health District's site visit for Oct. 23-24, 2018. The site visit will be conducted by a peer team of three to four PHAB-trained site visitors. The visit will serve to verify the accuracy of the documentation submitted by our agency in support of accreditation, and provide the opportunity for discussion in support of our application. Following the site visit, the team will issue a report that will describe how conformity with each measure was demonstrated, or detail what was missing; areas of excellence or unique promising practices; and opportunities for improvement.

Community Meetings

Week of May 28

- Met with Elaine Glaser, CEO, Valley Hospital, regarding residency program
- Participated in GME Task Force meeting

Week of May 21

- Attended the American College of Preventive Medicine 2018 Annual meeting in Chicago, IL

Week of May 14

- Participated in the OD Maps Subcommittee of the Statewide Partnership on the Opioid Crisis Working Group (SPOC)
- Met with County Commissioners and staff regarding nitrate removal issues
- Participated in Clark County Medical Society (CCMS) Board of Trustees and Delegates meetings
- Participated in Health Officers Association of California (HOAC) meeting
- Participated in Big Cities Health Coalition "Senior Deputies" Cohort discussion
- Participated in 2018 NACCHO Annual Late Breaker discussion

Week of May 7

- Participated in Syphilis Response Workgroup monthly meeting
- Participated in NACCHO Board meeting
- Participated in Big Cities Health Coalition (BCHC) 2018 monthly call

Week of April 30

- Participated in Nevada Public Health Foundation Board of Director's meeting
- Mentored Joey Smith, Public Health County Director, Montgomery (TN) County Health Department
- Met with Dennis Worsham and Patty Hayes, both of King County, WA, regarding communicable diseases
- Participated in Nevada Health Authority Conference call