



DATE: July 26, 2017

TO: Southern Nevada District Board of Health Members

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

SUBJECT: Chief Health Officer Report

Smoking Cessation Referrals

The tobacco industry spends over \$80 million each year on marketing its products in Nevada. The combined monetary toll of tobacco use on each smoker in Nevada is calculated at more than \$1.4 million during each of their lifetimes, and more than \$1 billion is spent each year on health care costs directly caused by smoking in this state alone. Health care providers are uniquely positioned to provide brief tobacco use interventions to their patients. Brief interventions are a U.S. Department of Health & Human Services Agency for Healthcare Research and Quality (AHRQ) recommended approach that involves a health care provider asking a patient about his or her tobacco use, advising a client to quit, and providing assistance in the form of referral to a quitline, education, and additional resources. Since 2006, Health District staff members and partners have trained more than 30,000 health care providers to provide brief interventions to patients.

Now, recipients of funding from the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) for tobacco control activities are being asked to expand on these activities. Many providers regularly refer patients to the Nevada Tobacco Quitline through fax, web-based referrals, or hard copy brochures. However, there are now resources available that make it even easier to refer patients and track their progress while quitting. Electronic referrals (eReferrals) integrate cessation referrals into the Electronic Health Record (EHR) of a patient and allow providers to quickly and efficiently refer patients to the quitline. The eReferral system is bi-directional and HIPAA-compliant, which allows the Quitline to receive eReferrals and to send progress reports about patients' treatment outcomes back to the referring health care provider. Patients are contacted by a Quitline counselor when the eReferral is received, and the electronic loop of information from referral to care coordination assists medical professionals in providing the best care and support to their patients. Research has demonstrated that even brief intervention by a health care professional can significantly improve cessation rates. The availability of eReferral provides additional resources for streamlining the process and working with patients to achieve improved health outcomes. More information about this process is available by contacting the Health District's Office of Chronic Disease Prevention and Health Promotion at (702) 759-1270.

Arbovirus Update

The Southern Nevada Health District conducts routine surveillance for arboviruses in mosquitoes and arboviral disease in humans. The Health District's Mosquito 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. 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 July 13, 2018, the Health District has tested six people for the Zika virus. 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, 43 female *Aedes aegypti* have been identified in the 89031 and 89032 ZIP codes. Staff conducts surveys to identify breeding sources and places "Oviposition Trap and Kill" monitoring traps to provide a method of ongoing targeted control and monitoring. Environmental Health staff members have set 1,000 traps throughout Clark County and submitted 1,018 testing pools, representing 19,464 mosquitoes, to the Southern Nevada Public Health Laboratory for arboviral analysis. All samples tested 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.

Food Handler Safety Training Cards

The Southern Nevada Health District updated its Food Handler Safety Training Card program effective July 1, 2018. Food Handler Card applicants are now required to complete testing at a Southern Nevada Health District location during business hours to obtain their cards. The discontinued process required applicants to complete a training and a test online. This new system provides free training material and allows the Health District to more effectively verify all applicants' identification as they complete the process and demonstrate basic food safety knowledge. The test and training materials are offered in multiple languages to meet the needs of all Food Handler Safety Training Card clients.

The Health District will continue to evaluate the new program to ensure it is providing basic food safety education to food service workers and meeting the needs of its food service industry clients. Information on the new Food Handler Safety Training Card program is available on the Health District website at www.snhd.info/foodhandler.

2018 Las Vegas Legionella Summit

The Health District hosted a 2018 Las Vegas *Legionella* Summit on July 12-13 at the South Point Hotel Casino. The Summit provided attendees the opportunity to learn from leading experts in epidemiology and environmental health. More than 170 attendees received presentations from government agency, hospital, and industry representatives who provided attendees with practical tools for identifying risks and implementing prevention and mitigation strategies. Day two of the Summit offered a full day ANSI-accredited certificate course titled Sustainable Comprehensive Water Management Programs for the Built Environment and was attended by more than 120 participants. The course educated 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.

Community Meetings

Week of June 25

- Met with Richard Whitley, Director, Nevada Department of Health and Human Services, and staff to discuss funding for health programs
- Participated in the Mosquito Surveillance Mid-Season Update meeting
- Met with Julie Kotchevar, Administrator, Nevada Department of Health and Human Services, to discuss budget initiatives for public health
- Participated in the Nevada State Medical Association Council meeting
- Participated in the Southern Nevada Behavioral Health Policy Board meeting

Week of June 18

- Met with Ben Schmauss, Government Relations Director, American Heart Association regarding future collaborative efforts
- Presented events related to the October 1 Las Vegas shooting at the California Department of Public Health, Emergency Preparedness Office Emergency Preparedness Training Workshop in Sacramento, CA

Week of June 11

- Met with Monica Adams, CDC, to discuss the evaluation development project and the CDC's interest on a national level
- Participated in 2018 NACCHO Annual Late Breaker Discussion
- Participated in the Nevada Health Authority Conference call
- Participated in the 2018 Healthy Aging Pre-Workshop meeting
- Hosted the American College of Healthcare Executives meeting
- Attended Inaugural UNLV School of Medicine Graduation
- Participated in Nevada Public Health Association Advocacy and Policy Committee meeting
- Participated in Nevada Health Authority Conference call

Week of June 4

- Participated in the Nevada State Medical Association Public Health Commission Meeting
- Participated in the Big Cities Health Coalition 2018 Monthly Call