



**DATE:** March 28, 2019

**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**

Influenza surveillance for Clark County, Nevada includes data collected from local acute care hospitals and other health care providers. During week 10 (March 3-9), influenza activity decreased slightly, but remains elevated at the local and national level. In Nevada, the geographic spread of influenza was widespread, but influenza-like illness activity (ILI) was moderate. In Clark County, 699 influenza-associated hospitalizations have been reported, with 61 percent being people 50 years of age or older. There have been 22 influenza-associated deaths reported, including four deaths in children under the age of 18. The proportion of emergency room and urgent care clinic visits for ILI was 5.5 percent in week 10 which was lower than week 9 (6.2 percent). Approximately 61 percent of area emergency room and urgent care clinic visits for ILI were made by children under 18 years of age. Influenza A was the dominant type circulating. The Southern Nevada Health District will continue to update the public on the flu season and encourage people to get vaccinated.

Health District influenza surveillance updates are available at <http://www.southernnevadahealthdistrict.org/stats-reports/influenza-surveillance.php>.

### **2019 County Health Rankings**

Each year, the Robert Wood Johnson Foundation (RWJF) and the University of Wisconsin Population Health Institute (UWPHI) release the County Health Rankings, an easy-to-use snapshot of local health data that demonstrates where you live influences how well and how long you live. The Rankings allow each state to see how its counties compare on a range of factors that influence health including education, housing, jobs, smoking, access to healthy foods, and more.

The Southern Nevada Health District held a briefing on March 19, 2019, to share this county-specific data with community partners. The program provided an opportunity to review the indicators for Clark County and further assess how they may impact identified public health priority areas.

Health outcomes in the Rankings model represent how healthy a county is and were measured by two types of health outcomes: how long people live (length of life) and how healthy people feel (quality of life). The Health District briefing included a summary of the 2019 Rankings, an update on community health improvement efforts in Southern Nevada, a statewide update, a workforce development survey, and a brief welcome and perspective from Representative Susie Lee.

### **2019 Clark County Health Outcomes**

Overall Rank: 8 (up from 10 in 2018)

Length of Life: 5 (down from 3 in 2018)

Quality of Life: 11 (up from 12 in 2018)

According to the Rankings, the five healthiest counties in Nevada are Lincoln, followed by Douglas, Pershing, Elko, and Storey counties. The five counties ranked as least healthy are Lyon, White Pine, Carson City, Mineral, and Nye. Eureka and Esmeralda counties were not ranked.

Health factors are the second aspect of the model and represent what influences the health of a county, and they include five factors: health behaviors, clinical care, social, economic, and physical environment factors. Each of these factors includes its own set of measures.

### **Clark County Health Factors**

Overall Rank: 11 (up from 12 in 2018)

Health Behaviors: 3 (up from 12 in 2018)

Clinical Care: 7 (no change from 2018)

Social & Economic Factors: 11 (no change from 2018)

Physical Environment: 16 (ranked last at 16 in 2018)

When rated for health factors, Douglas, Eureka, Washoe, Elko, and Lincoln counties ranked highest in Nevada. Clark, Pershing, Lyon, Nye, and Mineral counties ranked last in the state. Esmeralda County was not included in the health factors ranking.

### **World TB Day**

This year World TB is commemorated on March 24. It is a day to educate the public about the impact of the disease and to share the progress that has been made to prevent and control TB in our community. There have been 59 cases of active TB in Clark County reported to the Health District for 2018. Many more people have latent TB infection, and without treatment they are at risk of developing the disease in the future. Elimination of TB will require a comprehensive approach by the Health District and its health care partners that includes testing and treatment of high-risk populations and a robust program to treat active cases. The theme of World TB Day 2019 is "It's Time." It is designed to capture the elements needed to eliminate TB as a global threat. Campaign components include:

- It's Time to test and treat latent TB infection.
- It's Time to strengthen TB education and awareness among health care providers.
- It's Time to speak up.
- It's Time to end stigma.

The Health District's TB Treatment and Control Clinic staff members work with community partners to provide coordinated treatment and integrated services to patients throughout Clark County that align with the overarching goals of this campaign. For more information on Health District TB Treatment and Control services go to [www.southernnevadahealthdistrict.org/clinic/tuberculosis-treatment-control-clinic/](http://www.southernnevadahealthdistrict.org/clinic/tuberculosis-treatment-control-clinic/).

### **National Infant Immunization Week**

National Infant Immunization Week is April 27-May 4, 2019. The Health District, Immunize Nevada, and community partners are hosting the annual Baby Fest Immunization and Health Fair on Friday, May 3, from 11 a.m.-4 p.m. at the Health District's main location at 280 S. Decatur Blvd., Las Vegas, NV 89107. Admission is free. There will be family resources, free or low-cost immunizations for eligible infants, toys, and raffle prizes for families in attendance. More information is available on the Health District website at [www.SNHD.info/niiw](http://www.SNHD.info/niiw).

### **2019 Legislative Session**

The Health District is monitoring proposed legislation that would have a direct impact on the agency, would serve to promote public health in the community, or would impact services, programs, or funding. Recent legislation the Health District has been tracking or has taken action on include:

#### **AB223 - Last Meeting: Assembly Committee on Health and Human Services 3/8/2019**

Summary: Requires the Department of Health and Human Services to seek a federal waiver to allow certain dental care for persons with diabetes to be included in the State Plan for Medicaid. (BDR 38-544)

Growing evidence demonstrates a link between periodontal disease and diabetes. This legislation will ensure that dental care services are accessible for adults with diabetes who are eligible for Medicaid coverage.

#### **AB169 - Scheduled Meeting: Assembly Committee on Health and Human Services 3/22/2019**

Summary: Establishes the Maternal Mortality Review Committee. (BDR 40-712)

Requires the establishment of the Maternal Mortality Review Committee within the Department of Health and Human Services. This bill would require the review of incidents of maternal mortality, the dissemination of findings and recommendations, as well as the publishing of an annual report of maternal mortality data. This data that would be gathered under this legislation is vital to better understanding maternal mortality, and in some instances, severe maternal morbidity so resources and interventions can be directed to address these issues.

#### **SB171 - Last Meeting: Senate Committee on Commerce and Labor 3/15/2019**

Summary: Provides for the collection of information from certain providers of health care. (BDR 54-73)

SB171 would require laboratories to report chronic disease markers to the Nevada Division of Public and Behavioral Health. The Southern Nevada Health District supports this mandate as chronic disease markers provide vital information about a population's risk for developing chronic diseases as well as increased cancer deaths. Currently, the Division of Public and Behavioral Health relies solely on self-reported data for this information or on medical claims data collected through Medicaid or hospital discharge billing. Information collected through laboratory reporting would allow the Health District to obtain a more robust, accurate representation of the population's health and to better provide targeted services.

**SB263 – Scheduled Meeting: Senate Committee on Revenue and Economic Development  
3/28/2019**

Summary: Revises provisions relating to the regulation and taxation of certain vapor products and tobacco products. (BDR 32-700)

SB263 proposes to bring vapor products under the existing tax structure of other tobacco products. Tobacco-tax increases are proven to reduce use of these products by making them too expensive for many children to buy and give users another incentive to quit.

**Community Meetings**

Week of February 25

- Presented at the Nevada State Legislature
- Met with Assemblywoman Michelle Gorelow regarding matters related to the Health District
- Met with Assemblyman Mike Sprinkle regarding matters related to the Health District
- Met with Senator Julia Ratti regarding matters related to the Health District
- Participated in NACCHO Hill Day Conference Call #1
- Attended Legislative meeting regarding AB76
- Participated in Nevada Public Health Authority Advocacy and Policy meeting

Week of February 18

- Met with Senator Cortez Masto regarding matters concerning the Health District
- Participated in the NACCHO Finance Committee monthly meeting
- Participated in the Clark County Medical Society Board of Trustees meeting
- Provided media interviews regarding the ricin incident as needed
- Participated in the Nevada State Medical Association Public Health Commission meeting
- Met with Congresswoman Dina Titus regarding matters concerning the Health District
- Participated in the NACCHO Nominations Committee meeting

#### Week of February 11

- Presented to the Nevada Assembly Committee on Health and Human Services
- Met with Nevada Division of Public and Behavioral Health staff – Julie Kotchevar, Administrator; Julia Peek, Deputy Division Administrator; Beth Handler, Deputy Administrator for Community Services; Melissa Peek-Bullock, State Epidemiologist, regarding rural health outreach, WIC, and other matters related to the Health District
- Met with Nellis AFB staff regarding trauma centers
- Participated in the Nevada Association of Local Health Officers teleconference
- Met with Health Services Coalition staff regarding trauma centers
- Met with Dennis Worsham, King County Health District, regarding issues related to the Health District
- Participated in the Nevada Public Health Institute meeting regarding the County Health Rankings agenda and budget

#### Week of February 4

- Met with NACCHO Board members to discuss the by-laws
- Presented at Nye and Esmeralda County Board of County Commission meetings (Opioids & Public Health Prevention/Rural Dental Health Program)
- Participated in Nevada Public Health Institute meeting
- Met with Kevin Dick to prepare for Feb. 11 presentation to the Nevada Assembly Committee on Health and Human Services
- Met with Dr. Ramu Komanduri, Chief of Staff, Veterans' Administration, regarding Preventive Medicine Residency
- Participated in the Health Officers Association of California Board meeting
- Participated in the Nevada Health Authority Conference call
- Participated in the Big Cities Health Coalition Monthly Member call
- Participated in the Desert Meadows Area Health Education Center (DM AHEC) meeting