



**DATE:** July 25, 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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### Hepatitis A Outbreak

In June, the Southern Nevada Health District declared an outbreak of acute hepatitis A in Clark County. Between January 1 and June 30, there have been 49 outbreak-associated cases of hepatitis A in our community. This is a sharp contrast to the 39 confirmed cases in 2018, the 13 cases in 2017, and the 12 reported cases in 2016. Of the outbreak-associated cases reported to the Health District this year, 94 percent were among those who used injection and/or non-injection drugs, and 80 percent were among those experiencing homelessness.

Since March 2017, the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention has assisted multiple states and local health authorities in their responses to hepatitis A outbreaks. As of July 5, 2019, 25 states have publicly reported 21,348 cases of the virus, resulting in 12,564 hospitalizations, and 208 deaths. Beginning in November 2017, in response to nationwide outbreaks, the Health District has worked with a range of community partners to establish mobile strike teams to provide immunization clinics for the homeless and at-risk populations. These teams administer the hepatitis A vaccine, as well as other immunizations, during outreach events. In Nevada, hepatitis A vaccines have been required for school entry since July 1, 2002. However, only about one-third of the population who are provided services have had a documented history of receiving the vaccine. Additional Health District response activities include using information from recent cases to identify and notify hospitals that have treated an increased number of hepatitis cases; identifying further locations to target vaccinations; continuing its outreach and immunization efforts with its partners; and working with its health care partners to share information and recommendations about the outbreak. The Health District is recommending that health care providers consider offering the hepatitis A vaccine to patients who are at high risk for the virus. Individuals at high risk for hepatitis A include:

- People who use drugs (injection or non-injection).
- People experiencing unstable housing or homelessness.
- Men who have sex with men (MSM).
- People who are currently or recently incarcerated.
- People with chronic liver disease, including cirrhosis, hepatitis B, or hepatitis C.
- People with direct contact with someone who has hepatitis A.

- Travelers to countries with high or intermediate endemicity of hepatitis A virus infection.
- People with clotting-factor disorders.
- People working with nonhuman primates.
- Household members and other close contacts of adopted children newly arriving from countries with high or intermediate endemicity of hepatitis A virus infection.

The Health District is also recommending that health care workers review their immunization history to ensure staff who may be caring for ill patients are up to date with their hepatitis A vaccinations. Pre-vaccination serologic testing is not required for the vaccine to be administered.

### **State of the Health District**

More than 90 community partners joined the Health District for its first [State of the Health District](#) on Thursday, July 18. The agency provided the public and stakeholders with highlights of its accomplishments, an overview of the [Community Health Needs Assessment](#) developed in partnership with Dignity Health - St. Rose Dominican, and a preview of Healthy Aging and Putting Green on the Menu initiatives planned for the upcoming fiscal year.

### **Arbovirus Update**

The Health District's Mosquito Surveillance Program monitors the local mosquito populations for arboviruses such as West Nile, St. Louis Encephalitis, and Western Equine Encephalitis. The program also provides information on the types of mosquitoes present in Clark County. Arboviral diseases in humans are reportable to the Office of Epidemiology and Disease Surveillance (OEDS). Currently, West Nile virus and St. Louis Encephalitis are the only locally acquired arboviral diseases that have been reported to the Health District. Sporadic travel-associated cases of dengue, chikungunya, and Zika virus have been investigated by the office.

On July 9, The Health District reported the second human case of West Nile virus in Southern Nevada in 2019. The individual, a female under the age of 50, had the more serious form of the illness and had been hospitalized. The Health District reported its first West Nile case in April in a woman over the age of 50 with the more serious form of the illness; she has since recovered. As of July 12, the Health District's Mosquito Surveillance Program has set 1,266 traps throughout Clark County and submitted 1,132 testing pools, representing 30,075 mosquitoes to the Southern Nevada Public Health Laboratory (SNPHL) for analysis. This season, West Nile virus has been identified in mosquitoes from the following ZIP codes: 89005, 89014, 89030, 89032, 89101, 89106, 89107, 89110, 89123, 89129, 89131, and 89139. St. Louis Encephalitis virus has been identified in mosquitoes from the following zip codes: 89014, 89030, 89106, 89107, and 89123.

The Health District continues to urge the public to "Fight the Bite" by eliminating standing water around their home, preventing mosquito bites by wearing an EPA-registered repellent, and reporting mosquito activity to the Health District by calling (702) 759-1633. More information on the Health District's Mosquito Surveillance activities is available on its website at [www.southernnevadahealthdistrict.org/programs/mosquito-surveillance/](http://www.southernnevadahealthdistrict.org/programs/mosquito-surveillance/). For additional information and prevention tips visit the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention's website at [www.cdc.gov/features/stopmosquitoes/index.html](http://www.cdc.gov/features/stopmosquitoes/index.html).

## **Give Kids a Boost**

The Health District is urging parents and guardians to beat the back-to-school rush by bringing their pre-schoolers, kindergartners, and 7<sup>th</sup> graders for mandatory vaccinations to one of its public health centers. This year, the first day of school for students in Clark County is Monday, August 12. The Clark County School District requires the following vaccinations for students enrolling in school: chickenpox (varicella), hepatitis A, hepatitis B, polio, tetanus-diphtheria-pertussis (DTaP and Tdap), meningitis, and measles-mumps-rubella (MMR). Parents who recently moved to Nevada should note hepatitis A vaccination is required in the state. Immunizations that were up-to-date in other states that do not require hepatitis A vaccination might not be current in Nevada. For a list of immunization requirements for school, visit Immunize Nevada's [Nevada School Requirements](#) page.

Children entering 7<sup>th</sup> grade must be immunized against *Bordetella pertussis* (whooping cough) as well as *Neisseria meningitidis* (meningitis) in the form of a quadrivalent meningococcal conjugate vaccine (MenACWY). The meningitis vaccine is also required for 8<sup>th</sup> through 12<sup>th</sup> grade students who are new to the Clark County School District. A booster dose of quadrivalent meningococcal conjugate and the meningococcal B vaccines are recommended for teens who are 16 to 18 years old. College freshmen younger than 23 years old who are enrolled at a Nevada college or university and living in a dormitory are required to receive the meningococcal vaccine. The Tdap (tetanus-diphtheria-pertussis), meningococcal B, and quadrivalent meningococcal conjugate vaccines are all available at the Southern Nevada Health District. Parents vaccinating a child at a Health District clinic should bring immunization records. Parents who cannot locate their children's immunization records should contact their health care provider. If their children were immunized in Nevada, parents can also visit Nevada WebIZ, a statewide immunization registry, at <https://izrecord.nv.gov/public/Application/PublicPortal> or call Nevada WebIZ at 1-(877) 689-3249.

On Saturday, August 10, a special back-to-school immunization clinic is scheduled at the Health District's main public health center, located at 280 S. Decatur Blvd. from 9 a.m.-1 p.m. Only immunizations for children up to age 18 will be available. The Family Planning Clinic will offer oral and injectable birth control services as well as STD screenings on a walk-in basis. In addition, the Give Kids A Boost health fair offering family resources and information will be available for clients. The Health District is offering back-to-school immunizations at its public health centers. Visit its [Back-to-School Vaccine Clinics](#) website for location and insurance information.

## **Community Meetings**

### Week of May 27

- Met with Advisory Board member Kenneth Osgood regarding potential funding for a marijuana initiative
- Met with NACCHO Board members regarding bylaws
- Met with NACCHO partners regarding NACCHO Model Practice or Presentations – Mass Casualty Response – for upcoming NACCHO conference
- Met with Timothy Burch, Clark County Social Services, regarding potential collaborative efforts

#### Week of June 24

- Participated in the NACCHO Finance Committee meeting
- Provided media interviews as requested
- Met with Steven Medley, BioWatch Jurisdictional Coordinator, U.S. Department of Homeland Security, regarding BioWatch
- Participated in the Southern Nevada Behavioral Health Policy Board meeting

#### Week of June 17

- Participated in the Clark County Medical Society Board of Trustees and Delegate meetings
- Met with UNLV staff Sara Hunt, Assistant Dean of Behavioral Sciences and Dr. Alison Netski, UNLV School of Medicine regarding SNHD Primary Care

#### Week of June 10

- Participated in the planning call for the Nevada TB/STD training
- Met with Student Intern Jennifer Keeley regarding the upcoming Raw Milk study
- Participated in the Big Cities Health Coalition STD Activities Brainstorming call
- Participated in the Nevada Association of Local Health Officers Monthly Member call (NALHO is a project of the Nevada Public Health Institute)
- Participated in the State Health Needs Assessment interview sponsored by the Department of Health and Human Services
- Participated in the NACCHO Bylaws review teleconference
- Participated in the Nevada Public Health Association Advocacy and Policy Committee Legislative Recap
- Participated in the Big Cities Health Coalition Monthly call
- Met with Tia Christian-Hunt, NACCHO, regarding the Global Health Task Force meeting