



DATE: July 23, 2020

TO: Southern Nevada District Board of Health Members

FROM: Fermin Leguen, MD, MPH, Acting Chief Health Officer *FL*

SUBJECT: Chief Health Officer Report

Coronavirus Disease 2019 (COVID-19)

Southern Nevada Health District continues its collaborative efforts to provide testing resources for seniors, minorities, and those most at risk for COVID-19. Recently, the Health District partnered with jurisdictional counterparts and community organizations on an outreach effort to boost understanding among Hispanic residents of all ages about the need to wear face coverings in public places, get tested, and find resources to help protect themselves and their families from COVID-19.

The Spanish-language initiative, “*Esta En Tus Manos*,” (*It’s in Your Hands*), was launched on June 30. The campaign includes a website at www.estaentusmanosnevada.com that serves as an informational hub for the Hispanic community to find resources to help people dealing with the impacts of the virus. Additional campaign materials include social media, public service announcements, posters, flyers, and other collateral materials. Partner agencies are encouraged to share materials through their networks and social media platforms.

As part of the campaign, the Health District partnered with Clark County, Clark County School District, Guardian Elite Medical Services, and Community Ambulance to offer free COVID-19 testing at schools in high-risk areas. These walk-in sites offer 400 self-administered tests on a first-come, first-served basis. The first two collection sites were held at Cortney Junior High School on Friday, July 10, and Saturday, July 11. More than 600 people showed up for testing, and the Health District and partner service providers administered tests to more than 200 additional attendees.

The Health District is working with the Nevada Department of Public and Behavioral Health to partner with Deloitte to use their team of 250 contact tracers. Additionally, the Health District has trained Medical Reserve Corps staff to assist with disease investigations and contact tracing. Food Handler Safety Training Card staff is also helping with contact tracing. Health District staff is also working with UNLV to onboard additional case investigators, as well as Clark County Social Services, Department of Family Services staff.

Currently, positive cases are notified through the Health District’s automated system based on data sent from laboratories or health care providers. Notifications of positive results occur immediately when results are uploaded into the reporting system. If inaccurate or incomplete

information was provided at the time of testing, the notification might be delayed. Notification of negative results may take up to seven days. People can check their results on the Health District's online portal at www.southernnevadahealthdistrict.org/lab-results/.

Additional COVID-19 resources, including a COVID-19 dashboard, are available on the Health District website. In addition to demographic information, ZIP code and city maps, case counts per ZIP code, and a trend report are posted at www.SNHD.info/covid.

Tobacco-free Policies

The Southern Nevada Health District joined Carson City Health and Human Services and Washoe County Health District to encourage all businesses to protect the health of their customers, staff, and community through voluntary tobacco-free policies. Growing evidence is showing that smokers are at increased risk of complications from COVID-19. The public health agencies note that voluntary tobacco-free policies are allowed under the Nevada Clean Indoor Air Act. Businesses and their employees face challenges as they employ measures to comply with COVID-19 guidance and directives. The use of face coverings cannot be effectively reinforced if patrons remove them to smoke or vape. The act itself requires the frequent touching of the face and hands – another direct contradiction of COVID-19 prevention strategies – and mitigates efforts to keep high touch surfaces clean and disinfected.

The local health authorities also advised people who currently use tobacco products, including vaping products, to quit by calling the Nevada Tobacco Quitline at 1-800-QUIT-NOW (1-800-784-8669) from a Nevada area code.

Arbovirus Update

The Health District announced the first West Nile virus positive mosquitoes on June 18. The mosquitoes were trapped in the 89120 ZIP code. The detection of West Nile virus-positive mosquitoes served as a reminder to the public to protect themselves from mosquitoes that can transmit diseases such as St. Louis Encephalitis, Western Equine Encephalitis, and Zika. The Health District urged the community to “Fight the Bite” through its prevention campaign.

The 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, Zika, and other arboviruses.

No human cases of West Nile virus have been reported this season. Positive West Nile virus mosquitoes have been identified in 89014, 89074, and 89120. The Health District continues to urge the public to eliminate standing water around their homes, prevent mosquito bites by using an EPA-registered repellent, and report mosquito activity to (702) 759-1633.

A weekly Arbovirus Update is available at www.southernnevadahealthdistrict.org/programs/mosquito-surveillance/weekly-arbovirus-update/mosquito-monitoring-report/.

Community Meetings

Week Ending 6/26:

- Participated in CDC COVID All State & Local teleconference
- Interview with Max Darrow, Channel 3
- Interview with Hilary Brueck, Business Insider, COVID cases contract tracing efforts, mandating face coverings
- Teleconference with Matt Maddox, Wynn Resort
- Participated in Webex meeting with Michael Johnson, Nevada State College for contact tracing assistance
- Participated in Conference call with Pamela Hatty, Clark County, COVID testing locations and strategy
- Interview with Astrid Mendez, Channel 13, Governor's mask directive
- Participated in Big Cities Health Coalition teleconference
- Participated in Junta Comunitaria del Sector Social, United Way Southern Nevada teleconference
- Participated in teleconference with Robert Bilbray, Laughlin Economic Development, COVID cases in Laughlin

Week ending 6/19:

- Participated in CDC COVID-19 All State & Local teleconference
- Las Vegas Sun interview with Justin Emerson about the impact of Coronavirus on NHL's return/challenges of hosting sporting events
- Interview Mary Hynes, Review-Journal
- Participated in Clark County Medical Zoom conference
- Attended the Legislative Committee on Health Care meeting
- Participated in Catholic Charities of Southern Nevada Refugee Providers meeting and local consultation
- Participated in NV FQHC CEO Updates teleconference
- Interview with Eric Jimenez, Telemundo, First West Nile Virus Mosquitoes Detected in Clark County
- Participated in Clark County Conference call regarding COVID testing

Week Ending 6/12:

- Participated in CDC COVID All State & Local teleconference
- Interview with Jeremy Chen, Channel 13
- Participated in Nevada Association of Local Health Officers (NALHO) meeting
- Interview with Michael Scott Davidson, Review-Journal on spike in COVID cases in states bordering NV
- Participated in teleconference with Scott Adams, City Manager, City of Las Vegas on COVID testing
- Participated in Big Cities Health Coalition teleconference
- Participated in Junta Comunitaria del Sector Social, United Way Southern Nevada Teleconference

- Media interview with Mary Hynes, Review-Journal, on Multi-system Inflammatory Syndrome

Week ending 6/5:

- Participated in Clark County COVID Screening and Isolation Virtual exercise
- Participated in CDC COVID-19 All State & Local teleconference
- Participated in Clark County COVID Screening and Isolation drill
- Participated in teleconference with Greg Cassell, Incident Commander, Medical Surge Area Command, Clark County regarding testing sites
- Attended and presented at State Board of Health meeting
- Participated in Campaña de concientización de salud pública (uso del cubrebocas)