



DATE: September 24, 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. Testing is recommended for both symptomatic and asymptomatic individuals. Testing is highly recommended for:

- People with symptoms of COVID-19.
- Anyone who has been in contact with someone who has a confirmed or possible case of COVID-19.
- Anyone who was in a setting where they were exposed to a large crowd of people who were not wearing face coverings or maintaining social distancing.
- Anyone planning to visit someone at high risk for COVID-19 illness, including people 65 years of age and older people with serious medical conditions.

In addition to its Community Health Center collection sites at 280 S. Decatur Blvd., Las Vegas, NV 89107, and All Saints Episcopal Church, 4201 W. Washington Ave., Las Vegas, NV 89107, the Health District and community partners also offer sites in locations throughout the community. Additional collection sites are being scheduled at local high schools in coordination with the MSAC and support of Health District staff. These sites can be found on the Health District's COVID-19 Testing Site Calendar at www.snhd.info/covid-19-testing-sites.

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.

Isolation and Recovery Site

As part of its response to COVID-19, the Health District has opened its 29-bed non-congregate shelter for individuals who need to remain in isolation but whose symptoms have resolved enough that they no longer need hospitalization as well as people who have housing or social needs that may prevent them from completing isolation. The facility is part of the Health District's overall response plan to help keep hospital capacity at safe levels for treatment of COVID-19 patients.

The shelter will provide patients with food, clothing and shelter for the duration of their isolation period, and they will be discharged after 10 days of isolation from their symptom onset or positive result. Services will include case management, 24/7 medical supervision, three meals per day, and crisis counseling and medical services.

The U.S. Surgeon General, Vice Admiral Jerome Adams, toured the facility on Sunday, September 13, as part of a scheduled stop to Las Vegas. Staff took part in a round table discussion with Dr. Adams, where topics included the impact of COVID-19 on the community, mental health, the economy, health equity, and social justice. Participants also toured UMC's secondary lab, where COVID-19 testing is conducted.

Overdose Awareness Day

The Health District participated in the commemoration of International Overdose Awareness Day on August 31 with its partners. The Southern Nevada Harm Reduction Alliance's (SNHRA) fourth annual event was hosted online this year and included a panel of community members discussing their overdose-related experiences. An online naloxone training was offered, and participants had the opportunity to pick up overdose prevention kits at locations throughout the community.

Based on preliminary mortality data from the Health District's Electronic Death Registry System, there have been 496 drug overdose deaths among Clark County residents in 2019, and opioids (prescription and illicit) accounted for 56 percent of the deaths. While drug overdose deaths in Clark County decreased 5.5 percent from 2018, opioid-related deaths in Clark County have increased in 2019 to 280 deaths compared to 278 deaths in 2018. The death rate was the highest in the 89101 ZIP code at 75 deaths per 100,000 residents. Additionally, fentanyl is an increasing public health concern in Clark County with a recent increase in fentanyl-related deaths reported this year.

International Overdose Awareness Day seeks to acknowledge those who have died or suffered permanent injury, reduce the stigma of drug-related deaths, and raise awareness about overdose prevention and drug policy.

The Southern Nevada Harm Reduction Alliance (SNHRA) is composed of public health professionals, HIV providers, addiction specialists, syringe exchange programs, homeless service providers, substance use prevention community coalitions, recovery advocates, and health care representatives. Its mission is to improve the health and well-being of people who use drugs by reducing drug-related stigma, overdoses, and the harmful effects of drugs among Southern Nevadans regardless of their circumstances. SNHRA also provides education and resources about reducing substance misuse and unintentional overdose deaths, as well as reducing the risks of acquiring or transmitting bloodborne infections. Each month, the Southern Nevada Health District, in conjunction with members of SNHRA, provides testing for HIV and hepatitis C, sterile syringes, and homeless services. In February of 2017, the first comprehensive needle/syringe exchange program in Clark County began operating at Trac-B Exchange, a member of the Southern Nevada Harm Reduction Alliance. In addition, there are five syringe vending machines placed within service provider organizations.

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 serves 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 urges 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. As of August 28, environmental health staff has set 4,014 traps throughout Clark County and submitted 3,219 sample pools, representing 54,793 mosquitoes, to the Southern Nevada Public Health Laboratory for arboviral analysis. Of these sample pools submitted, 13 tested positive for West Nile virus. Positive West Nile virus mosquitoes have been identified in 89012, 89014, 89074, 89120, and 89122.

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.

Routine mosquito surveillance has ended. Staff will continue to respond to reports of activity and complaints. If a disease case is reported, weekly reporting will resume.

Archived Arbovirus Updates are available at www.southernnevadahealthdistrict.org/programs/mosquito-surveillance/weekly-arbovirus-update/mosquito-monitoring-report/.

Community Meetings

Week ending 8/28:

- Participated in CDC COVID-19 All State & Local teleconference
- Participated in teleconference with the state regarding Excel records and steps to share with Clark County agencies
- Regional Policy Group teleconference with Clark County stakeholders
- Participated in CCMS Delegation meeting
- Clark County News Conference regarding Stop, Swab & Go
- Participated in convention site visit with Governor Sisolak
- Participated in the annual meeting of the Nevada Medical Association

Week ending 8/21:

- Participated in CDC COVID-19 All State & Local teleconference

- Participated in teleconference with CDC, Councilman Black and Nevada Homeless Alliance regarding CDC guidance on homeless encampments
- Participated in BCHC Needs Assessment Interview
- Participated in teleconference with State regarding implementation of Assembly Bill 3
- Participated in teleconference with Clark County Medical Society
- Participated in teleconference with Shealyne Schultz, Department of Public Safety, regarding non-congregate sheltering and technical assistance
- Participated in LVMD Stakeholder call with Bill Arent
- Participated in teleconference with CCSD, regarding reopening and recovery
- Participated in teleconference for Junta Comunitaria del Sector Social
- Participated in teleconference with Mason van Houweling, UMC regarding Case Investigation and Contact Tracing missing data

Week ending 8/14:

- Participated in CDC COVID-19 All State & Local teleconference
- Participated in Regional Policy Group teleconference with Clark County Commissioner Kirkpatrick
- Participated in NALHO teleconference
- Participated in teleconference with Commissioner Kirkpatrick and Clark County stakeholders to review action plan
- Interview with Megan Messerly, The Nevada Independent, regarding contact tracing, testing, and delays
- Participated in teleconference with Clark County School District regarding schools reopening and recovery
- Interview with Rosana Romero, KRLV-AM, regarding back-to-school immunizations
- Participated in teleconference with Culinary Workers Union regarding guidelines for hotel and resort operations
- Interview with Fernando Renteria, Univision, regarding children and immunizations

Week ending 8/7:

- Participated in CDC COVID-19 All State & Local teleconference
- Participated in Regional Policy Group teleconference with Clark County stakeholders
- Participated in teleconference with Timothy Burch and Kevin Schiller, Clark County; and Drs. Joe Greer and Luther Brewster, Roseman University of Health Sciences, regarding collaboration to address social & health care needs from low income communities affected by COVID-19