



**DATE:** October 22, 2020

**TO:** Southern Nevada District Board of Health Members

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

**SUBJECT:** Chief Health Officer Report

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Coronavirus Disease 2019 (COVID-19)

The Southern Nevada Health District continues its collaborative efforts to provide testing resources for the community. 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.

The Health District is currently offering testing at its Community Health Center at 280 S. Decatur Blvd., Las Vegas, NV 89107. The Health District and community partners also offer sites at locations throughout the community. These sites can be found on the Health District's COVID-19 Testing Site Calendar at [www.snhd.info/covid-19-testing-sites](http://www.snhd.info/covid-19-testing-sites).

On Oct. 8, 2020, the COVID-19 Mitigation and Management Taskforce adjusted the thresholds it uses to monitor Nevada counties for elevated risk of COVID-19 transmission. The three measures used to flag counties for elevated risk are the average number of tests per day, the case rate of COVID-19, and the case rate paired with the test positivity rate. If a county meets two of the three criteria, it is flagged for elevated risk. The measure requiring counties to conduct an average of at least 150 tests per day was adjusted to require an average of 100 tests per day, and the test positivity rate was increased from 7 percent to 8 percent before flagging a county for being at an elevated risk.

Based on updated directives issued by the Governor's office and new legislation passed during the special session, the Health District has developed guidance for industry that is available at [www.southernnevadahealthdistrict.org/guidance-to-reopen-businesses-and-permitted-facilities/](http://www.southernnevadahealthdistrict.org/guidance-to-reopen-businesses-and-permitted-facilities/). 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](http://www.SNHD.info/covid). State directives and related guidance are available at <https://nvhealthresponse.nv.gov/news-resources/governor-directives-and-declarations/>.

### Influenza Season

The Southern Nevada Health District's Office of Epidemiology and Disease Surveillance began its 2020-2021 influenza season surveillance activities on Sept. 27, 2020 and will continue through May 22, 2021. Surveillance reports will be distributed throughout the season and available on the Health District website at [www.southernnevadahealthdistrict.org/news-info/statistics-surveillance-reports/influenza-surveillance/](http://www.southernnevadahealthdistrict.org/news-info/statistics-surveillance-reports/influenza-surveillance/).

Encouraging everyone to get vaccinated this season is more important than ever. Getting vaccinated will help to ensure medical resources are conserved, and the health care system is not overtaxed as the response to the COVID-19 pandemic continues. The flu vaccine is recommended for everyone 6 months of age and older. It is especially important for those at higher risk of developing serious complications from the flu. Many of the people at higher risk of complications from the flu are also at higher risk of complications from COVID-19.

This includes people 65 years of age and older, people with underlying medical conditions such as heart disease, diabetes, lung disease, compromised immune systems, and Blacks and Hispanics who are already disproportionately impacted by chronic diseases. It is also important to protect people more likely to be exposed to both COVID-19 and flu, including health care workers and essential workers who interact frequently with the public. A complete list of people at higher risk is available on the CDC website at [www.cdc.gov/flu/highrisk/index.htm](http://www.cdc.gov/flu/highrisk/index.htm).

Flu vaccine for people of all ages is available at Health District immunization clinics by appointment only. Call (702) 759-0850 for more information. Community flu clinic location information, including Health District community clinic information, is available at <https://immunizenevada.org/calendar>.

### Isolation and Recovery Site

The Health District's COVID-19 Isolation and Recovery Site, formerly called the Non-Congregate Shelter, has started accepting clients. The facility is located on the south side of the Health District's main facility and provides clients with COVID-19 who do not require hospitalization a safe place to shelter.

The shelter provides patients with food, clothing and shelter for the duration of their isolation period, and they are discharged after 10 days of isolation from their symptom onset or positive result. Services include case management, 24/7 medical supervision, three meals per day, and crisis counseling and medical services. Clients must be 18 years of age or older, they must be able to perform their own ADLs, must not be dependent on skilled nursing assistance or oxygen therapy, and must go through a client intake process. Services are provided free of charge.

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.

## Halloween Safety

The Health District issued tips for the public to help plan for a safer and healthier Halloween. Recommendations included celebrating with members of the same household or holding virtual parties. People who are at increased risk of severe illness from COVID-19, or who live with someone who is at increased risk, were advised to avoid in-person gatherings and to consider participating in lower risk events. The full guidelines are available for download on the Health District's blog at <https://www.southernnevadahealthdistrict.org/fun-and-safe-halloween-2020/>.

## Food Handler Safety Training Card Services

The Food Handler Safety Training Card program has resumed operations for first-time clients. Services are available by appointment only. Clients can make an appointment online at [www.snhd.info/programs/food-handler-safety-program](http://www.snhd.info/programs/food-handler-safety-program) or by calling (702) 759-0595.

## Community Meetings

Week ending 9/27:

- Attended the Big Cities Health Coalition (BCHC) Fall meeting
- Participated in the weekly CDC COVID-19 All State Update call
- Interview with Michael Scott Davidson/Mary Hynes, Las Vegas Review Journal, on interpretation of the exposure data released by the state
- Participated in the Southern Nevada Community Health Center Finance & Audit Committee meeting
- Participated in the TB Cohort Review meeting
- Participated in the Nevada Public Health Association (NPHA) 2020 Public Health Hero Recognition event
- Participated in the Southern Nevada Community Health Center Quality, Credentialing, & Risk Management Committee meeting
- Participated in the Nevada FQHC CIO Bi-weekly Update call
- Interviewed by Cinthia Maldonado, Telemundo, on testing asymptomatic people and its importance
- Participated in the Clark County School District Board meeting
- Interview with Max Darrow, Channel 3, regarding the ongoing pandemic response
- Interview with Cinthia Maldonado, KBLR-RV 39/Telemundo, regarding how SNHD is working with Clark County School District to determine how students can safely return to the classroom

Week ending 9/20:

- Participated in the Legislative Committee on Health Care meeting
- Interview with Las Vegas Sun/Hillary Davis on preparedness activities related to receiving/distributing COVID-19 vaccine
- Participated in the weekly CDC COVID-19 All State Update call

- Participated in a Resort COVID-19 Tests & Responsibilities meeting with UMC and Clark County representatives
- Participated in the Regional Policy Group meeting
- Attended “COCA – Telehealth & Health Equity during COVID” webinar
- Attended the Nevada Primary Care Association 2020 Annual Health conference
- Attended the “COVID-19: Until We Have a Vaccine” webinar
- Attended the “Advancing the Response to COVID-19: Sharing Promising Programs and Practices for Racial and Ethnic Minority Communities” webinar
- Attended the “Testing and Treatment of 2020-2021 Seasonal Influenza During the COVID-19 Pandemic” webinar
- Participated in a Vaccine Planning meeting with UMC and UNLV representatives
- Participated in the Reopening and Recovery meeting with the Clark County School District
- Participated in a Recovery/Safety meeting at the Clark County Government Building

Week ending 9/11:

- Participated in the weekly CDC COVID-19 All State Update call
- Participated in an interview with KVVU-TV 5 on COVID-19 Testing Guidelines
- Attended the Flu Shot event with Governor Sisolak
- Participated in the Nevada Association of Local Health Officers (NALHO)
- Participated in the Refugee Providers meeting and Local Consultation meeting with the Catholic Charities of Southern Nevada
- Participated in “Celebrating 25 Years and Launching the Revised 10 Essential Public Health Services” with the Public Health National Center for Innovations (PHNCI)
- Participated in the NV FQHC CEO Bi-weekly Update meeting
- Attended “Session 1: Being a Leader vs. Being a Boss” in NACHC’s 4-Part Leadership Webinar Series
- Participated in “Avoiding COVID-19 Burnout: Self-Care and Resiliency for Public Health Leaders” webinar
- Participated in the Reopening and Recovery with the Clark County School District
- Participated in the Big Cities Health Coalition (BCHC) Monthly Member call
- Participated in a conference call with County preparing for US Surgeon General visit
- US Surgeon General visit with Clark County

Week ending 9/4:

- Participated in the weekly CDC COVID-19 All State Update call
- Participated in the weekly COVID-19 Policy Coordination meeting
- Participated in a discussion for SNHD RFP for COVID-19 Seroprevalence Study
- Participated in an interview with Eric Meade from NVPCA
- Participated in an interview with Hilary Davis from the Las Vegas Sun regarding the flu season and COVID expectations
- Participated in a discussion on COVID-19: Vaccination Planning and Local Health Departments
- Participated in the Re-opening and Recovery discussion
- Participated in the Clark County Enforcement discussion



# FEDERAL FUNDING

SNHD as related to other jurisdictions

[www.usaspending.gov](http://www.usaspending.gov)

# County Of Los Angeles, Department of Public Health

- Total Federal funding: \$446,347,679
- ELC grant of \$317.25M. (Represents 71% of their funding)
- Population: 10.04M

# Maricopa County Public Health

- Total Federal Funding \$5,256,538
- Largest Federal funding source is Injury Prevention & Control Research and state and community based programs for \$2.69M represents 51% of total funding
- Population: 4.485M

# San Bernardino County Department of Public Health

- Total Federal funding: \$12,386,474
- HIV Emergency Relief Project grant of \$ 7.47M, represents almost 60% of total funding.
  
- Population: 2.18M



# Seattle & King County Public Health

- Total Federal Funding: \$19,611,749
- HRSA funding for HIV Emergency Relief Project Grants of \$7.46M, represents 38% of total funding
- Population: 2.253M

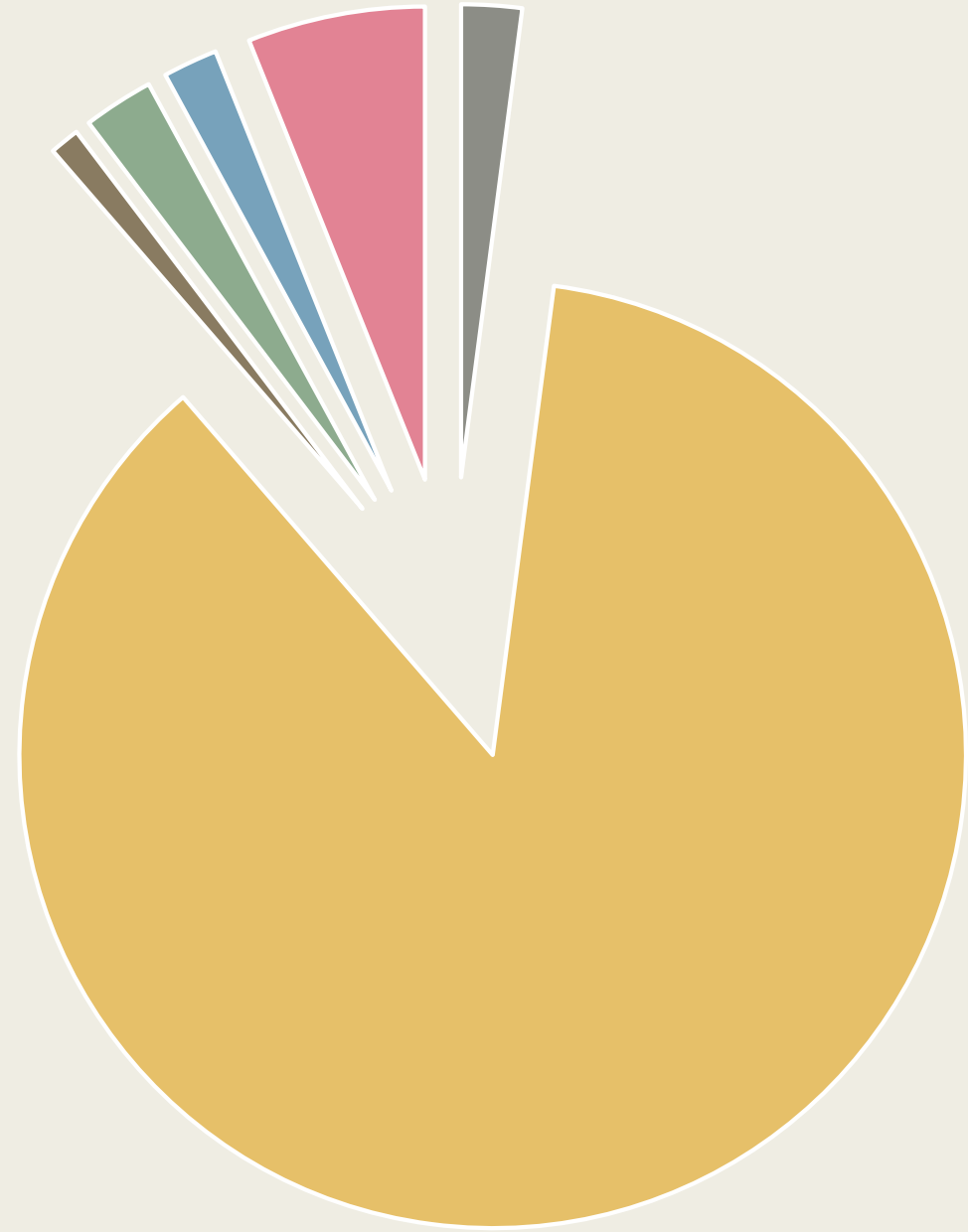
# San Francisco Department of Public Health

- Total Federal funding: \$31,257,192
- HRSA under the HIV Emergency Relief Project Grants of \$15.48 provides \$16.88, Represents 50% of total funding
- Population: 3.314M

# Southern Nevada Health District

- Total Federal Funding: \$10,657,997
- CDC provides \$5,97M, Represents almost 56% of total funding, \$2.50M comes from Injury Prevention and Control Research and State and Community Based Programs, representing , 23% of funding.
- Population: 2,267M

# Federal Funding



# Population

Population/million

