



DATE: November 19, 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)

As COVID-19 case counts and the positivity rate continues to increase in Clark County, the Southern Nevada Health District is working with its partners to encourage the public to stay home as much as possible, wear face coverings when in public and when around people that do not live in the same household, maintain physical distance of at least 6 feet, and to wash hands frequently.

The Health District is also working with partners to offer community COVID-19 and flu testing sites. Staff participated in the opening of the newest COVID testing site at Texas Station Hotel & Casino on Friday, November 3. Health District staff set up the registration system to allow faster processing at the site. People can pre-register online at www.snhd.info/covid-texas. People can also text COVID to 844-990-0029, and they will receive a link to the registration form to fill out on their phones.

Additional activities include the development of parameters for making recommendations for the approval of large gatherings in Clark County. To ensure large gatherings do not pose a burden to the local public health infrastructure, the Health District looks at the 7-day running average of cases, case investigation and contact tracing ability; the 7-day positivity rate as reported weekly from the Office of Epidemiology and Disease Surveillance; and hospital capacity as reported Monday through Friday by the Nevada Hospital Association. If any two indicators are found to be approaching or exceeding surveillance capacity (red), the Health District will not recommend approval of the large gathering application. Large gathering plans are ultimately approved by the Division of Industrial Relations after review by the Health District and other local jurisdictions. The full document is available on the website at www.southernnevadahealthdistrict.org/guidance-to-reopen-businesses-and-permitted-facilities/.

Planning activities for receipt and distribution of a COVID-19 vaccine continue.

Additional information is available at www.SNHD.info/covid. The Health District provides daily updates on its COVID-19 dashboard, available at www.southernnevadahealthdistrict.org/covid-19-dashboard/. COVID-19 data published by the Health District is preliminary and subject to change.

Southern Nevada Community Health Center

The Health District received notification from the Department of Health & Human Services Health Resources and Services Administration that the Southern Nevada Community Health Center had successfully demonstrated compliance with Health Center Program requirements after completion of its most recent Operational Site Visit Report.

This is a significant accomplishment and a testament to the hard work and efforts of the community center staff. The Operational Site Visit certificate can be viewed at <https://media.southernnevadahealthdistrict.org/download/hot-topics/2020/20201113-1-H80CS33641-snhd.pdf>.

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 continues 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/.

The Health District continues to encourage everyone to get vaccinated this season to help 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. A complete list of people at higher risk is available on the CDC website at 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. The Health District has been scheduling flu clinics at area high schools to ensure free vaccine is accessible throughout the community. Community flu clinic location information, including Health District community clinic information, is available at <https://immunizenevada.org/calendar>. Health District community clinic information is available at www.southernnevadahealthdistrict.org/community-health-center/immunization-clinic/available-vaccines/flu-vaccine-clinic/no-cost-flu-clinics/.

Community Meetings

Week ending 10/24:

- Attended the 2020 National Academy of Medicine Annual meeting
- Participated in the weekly CDC COVID-19 All State Update call
- Participated in daily meetings with representatives from the Clark County School District
- Participated in a meeting with Dr. Steven Buuck, Faith Lutheran Middle School & High School, regarding school reopening
- Participated in the Southern Nevada Community Health Center Finance Committee meeting
- Participated in the Clark County Medical Society Board of Trustees meeting

- Participated in the weekly meeting with Governor Sisolak, Councilman Scott Black, Commissioner Marilyn Kirkpatrick, representatives from Business & Industry and representatives from the Washoe County Health District
- Participated in a meeting with Mason Van Houweling and other representatives from UMC regarding Teachers Health Trust testing plans
- Interview with Las Vegas Review Journal regarding COVID-19 fatigue and the impact on case increases
- Participated in a meeting on COVID-19 Vaccination Briefing and Rollout Plan with local government leaders
- Participated in the Southern Nevada District Regional Trauma Advisory Board
- Participated in the Nevada FQHC CEO Bi-weekly Update call
- Participated in the Southern Nevada District Board of Health meeting
- Attended a webinar facilitated by the CDC on the collaboration and data sharing between STLT public health and K-12 schools for situational awareness, public health action and decision-making
- Participated in the Southern Nevada Community Health Center Board meeting
- Participated in the Clark County School District Board meeting
- Participated in a meeting with Big Cities Health Coalition (BCHC) regarding emergent COVID-19 issues
- Participated in a meeting with Shawn Gerstenberger, Dean of the School of Public Health at UNLV, and other representatives from UNLV regarding the UNLV contact tracing team
- Presented at the Philippine Nurses Association of Nevada on the Impact of COVID-19 on Healthcare Workers

Week ending 10/17:

- Participated in a meeting with Governor Sisolak, Councilman Scott Black, Commissioner Marilyn Kirkpatrick, representatives from Business & Industry and representatives from the Washoe County Health District
- Participated in the Regional Policy Group meeting
- Participated in the weekly CDC COVID-19 All State Update call
- Participated in the Nevada Association of Local Health Officers (NALHO) meeting
- Participated in a meeting with representatives from the Clark County School District (CCSD)
- Attended a webinar on COVID-19: Electronic Case Reporting Usage at the National, State and Local Level facilitated by NACCHO
- Participated in a meeting with Dr. David Cappelli, School of Medicine, UNLV, regarding Community Health Center Dental Services
- Participated in the Southern Nevada Community Health Center Board Retreat and Board meeting
- Attended the 2020 National Academy of Medicine Annual meeting

Week ending 10/10:

- Participated in the weekly CDC COVID-19 All State Update call
- Interview with Univision regarding new directives/updated directors, increased capacity of venues
- Participated in a Statewide Standards Review discussion
- Participated in the UNLV School of Medicine admissions interview evaluations
- Attended the flu vaccination clinic in Henderson
- Participated in a Resort COVID-19 Tests & Responsibilities meeting with UMC and Clark County representatives
- Participated in a meeting with representatives of the Clark County School District
- Participated in a meeting with Governor Sisolak, Councilman Scott Black, Commissioner Marilyn Kirkpatrick, representatives from Business & Industry and representatives from the Washoe County Health District
- Participated in the Nevada FQHC CIO Bi-weekly Update call
- Participated in the Clark County School District Board meeting

Week ending 10/3:

- Participated in the weekly CDC COVID-19 All State Update call
- Participated in the Regional Policy Group meeting
- Interview with Channel 3 on the removal from high risk list for Nevada
- Participated in a Statewide Baseline Mitigation Standards discussion
- Facilitated the New Board Member Orientation
- Participated in a Statewide Baseline Mitigation Standards discussion
- Participated in an Interprofessional Community Clinic meeting with UNLV
- Participated in a meeting with Dr. Marc Kahn, Dean of Medicine at UNLV, regarding the FQHC and possible assistance for patient referrals
- Participated in a meeting with Chair Morgan (NGCB), Terry Reynolds & Victoria Carreon (B&I) to discuss approval of plans for large event gatherings
- Attended an Addiction Toxicology Case Conference
- Interview with Telemundo on the importance of flu vaccine and COVID-19 this coming flu season; differences between the illnesses, recommendations for staying healthy, advice for skeptics
- Participated in the UNLV School of Medicine admissions interview evaluations