



**DATE:** January 28, 2021

**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)

On December 14, the Southern Nevada Health District received the community's first doses of the COVID-19 vaccine. The initial shipment of 12,675 doses of vaccine were delivered to hospitals to be administered to health care personnel. The initial doses of the vaccine were distributed using a tiered approach to ensure the supplies of vaccine provided were enough to vaccinate the critical populations identified by the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention's Advisory Committee on Immunization Practices.

The Health District's distribution plan mirrored the CDC's recommendations and the Nevada Division of Health and Human Services Vaccination Program Playbook. These recommendations and plans have since been updated and will allow local health authorities more flexibility to simultaneously offer vaccine to priority groups and expedite vaccine delivery.

Vaccine delivery sites and updated information, including the amount of vaccine received and doses administered, are available on the Health District's website at [www.snhd.info/covid](http://www.snhd.info/covid).

#### 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 are 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/).

The first flu-related death of the season was reported in a woman who was over the age of 65. Influenza activity has remained low in Clark County compared to past seasons, but this death serves as a reminder that the flu is a serious disease and is still circulating in the community. As of January 2, 10 people in Clark County have been hospitalized with confirmed diagnosis of flu, an increase of five cases from the previous week. The percentage of emergency room and urgent care clinic visits for influenza-like-illness (ILI) in Clark County was 3.2 percent for the week ending January 2, which was higher than the previous week (2.6 percent).

The Health District continues to encourage everyone to get vaccinated against the flu 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](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. 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/](http://www.southernnevadahealthdistrict.org/community-health-center/immunization-clinic/available-vaccines/flu-vaccine-clinic/no-cost-flu-clinics/).

### World AIDS Day

The Southern Nevada Health District commemorated the 32<sup>nd</sup> World AIDS Day on December 1 with the launch of its Collect2Protect online HIV/STD at-home testing program. This innovative program is part of its efforts to enhance HIV/STD services offered in Clark County. People interested in getting tested for HIV can visit the Collect2Protect website at [www.snhd.info/c2p](http://www.snhd.info/c2p) to order a test kit. The at-home HIV kits are free and allow individuals to receive their results in their home. At-home test kits for gonorrhea and chlamydia are also available.

Since World AIDS Day 2019, Nevada received an Ending the HIV Epidemic grant due to its continued increase in new HIV diagnoses and the number of people living with HIV. In Clark County, there are approximately 10,100 people living with HIV and 448 of them were newly diagnosed. As part of this funding, the Health District is focusing on four areas with efforts to:

- **Diagnose** all people with HIV as early as possible.
- **Treat** people with HIV rapidly and effectively to reach sustained viral suppression.
- **Prevent** new HIV transmissions by using proven interventions, including pre-exposure prophylaxis (PrEP) and syringe services programs (SSPs).
- **Respond** quickly to potential HIV outbreaks to get prevention and treatment services to people who need them.

The Health District encourages everyone to get tested and to learn their HIV status. Early diagnosis is critical for people with HIV so that they can benefit from antiretroviral therapy (ART). ART reduces HIV levels in the bloodstream, reduces HIV-related illnesses, and lowers the risk of transmitting HIV to intimate partners. With ART, HIV-positive people can remain healthy for many years.

People who get tested and learn they are HIV negative can make decisions about their risk factors and health care. Those who are at high risk for HIV infection can discuss pre-exposure prophylaxis (PrEP) with their health care providers to reduce their risk of infection. The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) has information about PrEP on its website. For more information, visit [www.cdc.gov/hiv/basics/prep.html](http://www.cdc.gov/hiv/basics/prep.html).

## Community Meetings

### Week ending 12/31:

- Participated in the weekly CDC COVID-19 All State Update call
- Participated in a presentation by MGM Resorts on CwC/Rapid Testing
- Participated in the Regional Policy Group meeting
- Participated in the Nevada Immunization Program weekly COVID vaccine microplanning meeting
- Interview by Bryan Horwath (Las Vegas Sun) regarding the COVID-19 Vaccine and 2021 Economic Outlook
- Participated in a COVID Policy meeting with representatives from Clark County and UMC
- Participated in the weekly meeting with Governor Sisolak, along with representatives from the Governor's office, the school boards, business and industry and local health authorities regarding COVID-19
- Participated in a meeting with representatives from the state, Clark County SNF and hospitals regarding Southern Nevada hospital discharges and placements
- Participated in the weekly meeting with Commissioner Kirkpatrick, representatives from UMC and representatives from the Nevada Resort Association regarding COVID-19 response
- Participated in the Nevada FQHC CEO Bi-weekly Update call

### Week ending 12/27:

- Participated in a roundtable discussion with Stephen Hahn, M.D (FDA Commissioner), State, Local and Tribal leaders on COVID-19 response
- Participated in the weekly CDC COVID-19 All State Update call
- Participated in a meeting with Assemblyman David Orentlicher on a pilot program for a supervised injection site
- Interview with Adriana Arevalo (Voice of America) regarding minors and the COVID-19 vaccine
- Participated in the Nevada Immunization Program weekly COVID vaccine microplanning meeting
- Participated in a media availability regarding COVID-19 Vaccine Arrival/Planning
- Participated in a COVID Policy meeting with representatives from Clark County and UMC
- Attended the Nevada State Immunization Program webinar on the COVID-19 vaccine
- Participated in the weekly meeting with Governor Sisolak, along with representatives from the Governor's office, the school boards, business and industry and local health authorities regarding COVID-19
- Participated in a meeting with representatives from the state, Clark County SNF and hospitals regarding Southern Nevada hospital discharges and placements
- Participated in the weekly meeting with Commissioner Kirkpatrick, representatives from UMC and representatives from the Nevada Resort Association regarding COVID-19 response

Week ending 12/20.

- Participated in a call with Stephen Hahn, MD (FDA Commissioner) and Peter Marks (FDA Center for Biologics Evaluation and Research) regarding COVID Vaccine Safety
- Attended UMC for the delivery of the first COVID-19 vaccine
- Participated in a media event regarding COVID-19 Vaccine Arrival/Planning
- Participated in the Regional Policy Group meeting
- Participated in the Southern Nevada Community Health Center Finance & Audit Committee meeting
- Interview with Candace Buckner (Washington Post) on the impact of relocated sports teams and COVID-19 in the community
- Participated in a meeting with representatives from Clark County Commission and UMC regarding the Texas Station Collection site
- Attended a webinar on the COVID-19 Vaccine facilitated by Immunize Nevada
- Attended the Clark County Medical Association Board of Trustee meeting
- Participated in the weekly meeting with Governor Sisolak, along with representatives from the Governor's office, the school boards, business and industry and local health authorities regarding COVID-19
- Attended a webinar on "COVID-19 - Quality Practice Initiatives at FQHCs" facilitated by Weitzman Learning
- Participated in the weekly meeting with Commissioner Kirkpatrick, representatives from UMC and representatives from the Nevada Resort Association regarding COVID-19 response
- Participated in the Southern Nevada Community Health Center Quality, Credentialing & Risk Management Committee meeting
- Participated in the Nevada FQHC CEO Bi-weekly Update call
- Participated in a virtual Community Forum with Spanish-speaking residents in Nevada facilitated by the United Way of Southern Nevada
- Participated in the Southern Nevada Community Health Center Nominations Committee meeting
- Participated in the Southern Nevada Community Health Center Governing Board meeting
- Participated as panelist in the Clark County Medical Association Townhall on Vaccine Rollout
- Radio Interview with Rosana Romero on the COVID-19 vaccine
- Participated in a meeting with representatives from the state, Clark County SNF and hospitals regarding Southern Nevada hospital discharges and placements

Week ending 12/13.

- Participated in the weekly CDC COVID-19 All State Update Call
- Participated in the Regional Policy Group meeting
- Attended the "Mayo Clinic COVID-19 Live Webinar Series"
- Participated in a meeting with Dr. Brian Labus (UNLV) regarding a Seroprevalence study
- Participated in the Nevada Association of Local Health Officers (NALHO) meeting

- Participated in the Nevada State Medical Association (NSMA) Public Health Commission meeting
- Attended the Bloomberg American Health Summit 2020
- Participated in the weekly meeting with Commissioner Kirkpatrick, representatives from UMC and representatives from the Nevada Resort Association regarding COVID-19 response
- Attended the "COVID-19 Vaccines: The Realities of the Next Steps" webinar
- Participated in the State Board of Health meeting
- Participated in a meeting with Dr. Michael Garner (UNLV) regarding vaccine distribution
- Participated in a meeting with Diego Trujillo, CEO at Las Vegas HEALS
- Participated in a meeting with representatives from the state, Clark County SNF and hospitals regarding Southern Nevada hospital discharges and placements
- Attended the "Walgreens Live: How will Walgreens administer the first COVID-19 vaccine" webinar
- Interview with Jason Bracelin (Las Vegas Review Journal) on my plans for New Year's Eve
- Participated in a meeting with Commissioner Kirkpatrick, Maury Galligher (Allegiant Airlines), Keith Hansen (Allegiant Airlines) and Mason Van Houweling (UMC) regarding a COVID-19 testing company Allegiant Airlines has developed

