



DATE: February 25, 2021

TO: Southern Nevada District Board of Health Members

FROM: Fermin Leguen, MD, MPH, District Health Officer *FL*

SUBJECT: District Health Officer Report

Coronavirus Disease 2019 (COVID-19)

As of Feb. 16, 2021, there have been 304,109 COVID-19 vaccines administered in Clark County (203,477 first doses and 40,420 second doses). The vaccine is being distributed in phases, according to the recommendations of the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC). The Southern Nevada Health District's distribution plan mirrors the Nevada Division of Public and Behavioral Health's COVID-19 Vaccination Playbook and is based on risk and level of exposure.

On February 17, the Health District announced that severe weather in other parts of the country had caused delays in shipments in its allocation of Moderna vaccine. As a result, appointments for approximately 4,000 patients receiving their second dose of Moderna vaccine at Health District clinics were rescheduled for one week later. The expected allocation of Pfizer vaccine was received, and second dose appointments continued as usual for those patients.

The Health District's weekly [Vaccine Snapshot](#), including ZIP code vaccination data is posted each week on the Health District's website. The Heath District continues to work closely with its state and local partners to distribute the vaccine supply received each week as equitably as possible and in keeping with State's Vaccine Playbook. People 65 years of age are now eligible to receive the COVID-19 vaccine in Clark County.

Updated information and resources are available on the Health District's COVID website at www.SNHD.info/covid.

B1.1.7 Variant

Seven cases of the new B.1.1.7 variant have been detected in Clark County. The Health District announced the first known case of the new B.1.1.7 coronavirus strain in Nevada had been detected in a sample that was initially tested in the Southern Nevada Public Health Laboratory (SNPHL) on January 25. The specimen was collected during routine community collection activities and tested by the SNPHL to determine if it was positive for the virus that causes COVID-19. During testing, it was discovered the specimen was showing characteristics of the variant. It was then sent the Nevada State Public Health Laboratory for sequencing and confirmation. The Clark County resident who tested positive is a woman in her 30s. She reported no travel history and has had limited contact with people outside her household. The patient was not hospitalized and remained isolated in her home.

Five additional cases of the new B.1.1.7 coronavirus strain that are all close contacts of the first case were confirmed and announced on February 2. The five Clark County residents who tested positive include two females and three males. The two females are both under the age of 18. One of the males is an adult in his 30s, and the other two are both under the age of 18. All five of the patients have recovered, and none had reports of recent travel history.

The Health District reported the seventh case on February 11. The individual is a male in his 30s and a visitor to Clark County. The case has not been linked to previously reported cases, and he was isolated and did not require hospitalization.

The B.1.1.7 strain is thought to spread more easily but is not believed to cause more severe illness or increase the risk of death. The vaccines currently being used will still provide protection against the variants of the virus.

Additional information about new COVID-19 vaccine is available on the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention website at www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/transmission/variant.html. More information about COVID-19, including case updates, vaccination clinics, and available resources is available on the Health District website at 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/.

In Clark County this season, 29 influenza-associated hospitalizations and two deaths associated with influenza have been reported as of January 30. The percentage of emergency room and urgent care clinic visits for influenza-like illness (ILI) was 1.1 percent in week 5 which was lower than week 4 (1.6%). Approximately 41% of area emergency room and urgent care clinic visits for ILI were made by adults 18-44 years of age. Influenza A has been the dominant strain circulating. Nationwide, seasonal Influenza activity in the United States remains lower than usual for this time of year. Among 54 states/jurisdictions, the ILI activity level in the state of Nevada is minimal. ILI surveillance may be impacted by the COVID-19 pandemic and should be interpreted with caution. The Health District will continue to update the public on the progression of the influenza season and encourage influenza vaccination for all people 6 months of age and older without contraindications.

Community Meetings

Week ending 01/31:

Daily Meetings:

- Participated in a daily meeting with SNHD Vaccination Campaign team on the COVID-19 vaccine

Triweekly Meetings (three times a week):

- Participated in meetings with representatives from the state and Clark County on the COVID-19 vaccine

Weekly Meetings:

- Participated in the weekly CDC COVID-19 All State Update call
- Participated in the Regional Policy Group meeting
- Participated in the Nevada IZ Program weekly COVID vaccine microplanning meeting
- Participated in the weekly meeting with Governor Sisolak, along with representatives from the Governor's Office, Business & Industry and local health authorities regarding COVID-19

Monthly Meetings:

- Participated in individual Board of Health Agenda Review meetings with Councilwoman Diaz, Councilman Stewart, Councilman Adams, Scott Nielson, and Bobbette Bond
- Participated in the Southern Nevada Community Health Center Finance and Audit Committee meeting
- Participated in the Southern Nevada Community Health Center Quality, Credentialing & Risk Management Committee meeting
- Participated in the Southern Nevada District Board of Health meeting
- Participated in the Southern Nevada Community Health Center Governing Board meeting

Quarterly Meetings:

- Participated in the Southern Nevada Public Health Advisory Board meeting
- Participated in the Facilities Advisory Board meeting

Interviews:

- Participated in a media availability with Clark County on the COVID-19 vaccine update
- Attended a media availability at Mack Middle School with Commissioner Segerblom and Councilwoman Diaz

Professional Development:

- Attended the "Increasing Vaccination Coverage Among Racial and Ethnic Groups: Lessons Learned from CDC's REACH Program" webinar

Ad-hoc Meetings:

- Participated in the Statewide Standards Review meeting
- Presented to the Urban Chamber of Commerce on 'COVID-19 Vaccine: A Discussion about Diversity, Safety, Efficacy and Distribution'
- Participated in the 'WH COVID-19: State/Local Health Officials' webinar
- Participated in a meeting with the Legislative Counsel Bureau and local health authorities on planning for public health presentations before the Assembly Health and Human Services Committee in February 2021

Week ending 01/24:

Daily Meetings:

- Participated in a daily meeting with representatives from the state and Clark County on the COVID-19 vaccine
- Participated in a daily meeting with SNHD Vaccination Campaign team on the COVID-19 vaccine

Bi-weekly Meetings (twice a week):

- Participated in a meeting with representatives from Clark County on the COVID-19 Vaccine Tier 1 Rollout (bi-weekly)

Weekly Meetings:

- Participated in the weekly CDC COVID-19 All State Update call
- Participated in the Nevada IZ Program weekly COVID vaccine microplanning meeting
- Participated in the weekly CDC COVID-19 Related Response Strategies meeting
- Participated in a weekly meeting with representatives from the state, Clark County SNF and hospitals regarding Southern Nevada hospital discharges and placements

Monthly Meetings:

- Participated in individual Board of Health Agenda Review meetings with Councilman Black, Commissioner Kirkpatrick, Councilman Knudsen, Commissioner Segerblom, and Dr. Nemec
- Participated in the Southern Nevada District Board of Health Finance Committee meeting

Interviews:

- Interview with Johali Carmona (Telemundo) regarding 'Heroes de nuestra comunidad' (Heroes in our Community)
- Participated in a media availability with Clark County on the COVID-19 vaccine update
- Interview with Nicole Wetsman (The Verge) regarding balancing testing/vaccinations as continued response to the pandemic

Ad-hoc Meetings:

- Participated in a meeting with Commissioner Kirkpatrick, Chief Steinbeck, Deputy Chief Samuels, and representatives from UNLV and CCSD regarding vaccine distribution
- Participated in a meeting with Senator Cortez Masto on COVID-19 vaccine distribution, how she can support SNHD and vaccine education efforts in the community
- Participated in a meeting with Ken Evans, Urban Chamber of Commerce Las Vegas, in preparation of the Panel Discussion regarding vaccines and addressing concerns of the minority and underserved population
- Meeting with Bradley Mayer on SNHD 2021 Legislative Session Areas of Interest

Week ending 01/17:

Daily Meetings:

- Participated in a daily meeting with representatives from the state and Clark County on the COVID-19 vaccine
- Participated in a daily meeting with SNHD Vaccination Campaign team on the COVID-19 vaccine

Bi-weekly Meetings (twice a week):

- Participated in a meeting with representatives from Clark County on the COVID-19 Vaccine Tier 1 Rollout

Weekly Meetings:

- Participated in the weekly CDC COVID-19 All State Update call
- Participated in the Regional Policy Group meeting
- Participated in the Nevada IZ Program weekly COVID vaccine microplanning meeting
- Participated in a weekly meeting with the Clark County Medical Society 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 & Industry and local health authorities regarding COVID-19
- Participated in a weekly meeting with representatives from the state, Clark County SNF and hospitals regarding Southern Nevada hospital discharges and placements

Interviews:

- Interview by Sabrina Schnur (Las Vegas Review-Journal) on COVID cases in the 89110 ZIP code, outreach and challenges
- Interview with Ruben Kihuen (87.7FM Fiesta Las Vegas) regarding COVID-19 vaccinations and what can be done to reduce cases and hospitalizations in the Latino community
- Interview with Adrian Arevalo (Voice of America) on COVID-19 vaccination efforts, website and appointment sites
- Participated in a media availability with Clark County on the COVID-19 vaccine update

Professional Development:

- Attended the "ANAC | The Law Relating to Youth Consent to Sexual Health Care and the Disclosure of HIV Status" webinar
- Attended the "MDI - Discussion Updates on COVID-19 Vaccine and Related FAQ's" webinar

Ad-hoc Meetings:

- Participated in a meeting with Department of Health and Human Services and Local Health Authorities to discuss vaccine funding
- Participated in a meeting with Fire Chief John Steinbeck, Deputy Fire Chief Bill Samuels, Mason Van Houweling (UMC), Todd Sklamberg (Sunrise), Lawrence Barnard (Dignity) and Commissioner Kirkpatrick on the hospital surge
- Attended a virtual forum with Congresswoman Susie Lee on the COVID-19 vaccine

- Attended the Quality Improvement Council meeting
- Participated in a meeting with Commissioner Kirkpatrick, Commissioner Gibson, Chief Steinbeck and local faith leaders on the COVID-19 vaccine
- Participated in a meeting with the U.S. Government Accountability Office regarding COVID-19 testing locations
- Participated in a meeting with Commissioner Kirkpatrick, Chief Steinbeck and representatives from the Nevada Resort Association regarding Mitigation Gatherings

Week ending 01/10

- Participated in the weekly CDC COVID-19 All State Update call
- Attended the Nevada COVID-19 Response call on coordination among hospitals and skilled nursing facilities to address the needs of patients, and provide updates on Nevada's ongoing response to COVID-19
- Participated in a meeting with representatives from the CDC regarding a text message/email system to collaborate on a cross sectional study about the long-term sequelae on medical needs of COVID-19 survivors
- Participated in a meeting with Fire Chief John Steinbeck, Deputy Fire Chief Bill Samuels, Mason Van Houweling (UMC), Todd Sklamberg (Sunrise), Lawrence Barnard (Dignity) and Commissioner Kirkpatrick on hospital surge
- Attended a webinar by Dr. Michael Saag and Dr. Mark Mulligan regarding update on the COVID-19 vaccine
- Participated in a meeting with Todd Sklamberg and Steven Merta (Sunrise) on a possible community monoclonal infusion clinic at Sunrise
- Participated in the Nevada IZ Program weekly COVID vaccine microplanning meeting
- Attended the "ANAC | Mental Health and Substance Use" webinar
- Participated in a meeting with representatives from Clark County on the COVID-19 Vaccine Tier 1 Rollout
- Participated in a meeting with Commissioner Kirkpatrick, Commissioner Gibson, Chief Steinbeck and local faith leaders 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 & 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 a media availability regarding COVID-19 Vaccine Update
- Attended the "Building Narrative Power for Health Equity and Racial Justice" webinar
- Participated in the CDC COVID-19 Related Response meeting on the new variant strain, traveler recommendations and innovations in contact tracing and case investigation
- Participated in a meeting with Commissioner Kirkpatrick, Chief Steinbeck, Deputy Chief Samuels and representatives from the COVID-19 Response team on a plan for rapid vaccination in Clark County
- Interview by Tony Alvarez (Telemundo) regarding a COVID-19 update, recent cases and the impact of the holidays
- Participated in a meeting with representatives from Clark County on the COVID-19 Vaccine Tier 1 Rollout

- Participated in a meeting with Commissioner Kirkpatrick, Chief Steinbeck and representatives from the Nevada Resort Association regarding Mitigation Gatherings
- Participated in a meeting with the COVID-19 Response team and local health authorities and on the COVID-19 Vaccine
- Interview by Rosana Romero on COVID-19 update
- Participated in a meeting with representatives from the state, Clark County SNF and hospitals regarding Southern Nevada hospital discharges and placements
- Interview by Astrid Mendez (KTNV) on the COVID-19 vaccine
- Participated in a COVID Policy meeting with representatives from Clark County and UMC