



DATE: March 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 March 18, 2021, there have been 738,353 COVID-19 vaccines administered in Clark County (491,647 first doses, including 11,550 Janssen vaccines administered, and 246,706 second doses).

The Governor announced eligibility will be expanded to all Nevadans, ages 16 and older, beginning Monday, April 5. All Health District vaccine sites will begin offering the vaccine to eligible individuals at this time. People ages 16-64 with underlying medical conditions are eligible to receive the vaccine beginning Monday, March 22. The state is partnering with retail pharmacies to offer the vaccine to this group.

The three vaccines currently authorized for use are all highly effective at preventing severe disease and death from the virus that causes COVID-19. Direct comparisons of the vaccines cannot be made, as the clinical trials were conducted at different times. The Health District continues to stress that the best vaccine for people to get is the one that is available to them at the time of their appointment. The Janssen vaccine was tested as COVID-19 variants began to emerge in areas where the trials were occurring. Public health officials urge people to take any vaccine that is available to them.

Vaccine [eligibility](#) has been expanded to include all the remaining categories within the Frontline Community Support Group and to the Frontline Supply Chain & Logistics Group. In addition to people in these occupational categories, groups currently eligible to receive the vaccine include people 65 years of age and older, health care workers, and those in the public safety and security frontline group. The Health District is urging people that are eligible in these groups, which includes everyone 18 years of age and older, to register for an appointment to get the vaccine.

The Southern Nevada Health District is working closely with its community partners on outreach activities and to ensure access to the vaccine at its sites. The Health District has partnered with the Regional Transportation Commission of Southern Nevada (RTC) to reach individuals who may need assistance accessing COVID-19 distribution sites. The program is designed to have RTC transit vehicles pick up senior citizens at centralized location near their homes. Health District staff is reaching out to senior centers, community groups, and faith-based organizations to reach those in need of transportation assistance.

The Health District's weekly Vaccine Snapshot is available on the Health District website at <https://covid.southernnevadahealthdistrict.org/vaccine/snapshot/> and incorporates ZIP code vaccination data.

The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention issued updated guidance for people who have been fully-vaccinated this week. The full guidance is available at <https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/vaccines/fully-vaccinated.html>.

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

B1.1.7 Variant

The Health District has identified a total of 24 cases of the B.1.1.7 variant 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 Health District has also received reports of 2 cases of the B.1.526 variant in Clark County. The variant was first detected in New York in November 2020.

At this time, the vaccines currently being used provide protection against the variants of the virus that are circulating.

Additional information about new COVID-19 variants 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, 33 influenza-associated hospitalizations and five deaths associated with influenza have been reported as of March 6. The percentage of emergency room and urgent care clinic visits for influenza-like illness (ILI) was 0.9 percent in week 9 which was similar to week 8 (0.9%). Approximately 42 percent 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 02/28:

Weekly Meetings:

- Participated in the CDC COVID-19 All State Update call
- Participated in the Nevada Immunization Program weekly COVID vaccine microplanning meeting
- Participated in the weekly meeting with Governor Sisolak, along with representatives from the Governor's Office, business and industry, and local health authorities regarding COVID-19
- Participated in a meeting with SNHD Strategic COVID-19 Vaccination team
- Participated in a meeting with the State and Clark County on the COVID-19 Vaccine recap
- Participated in a meeting with Clark County on COVID-19 coordinated communications
- Participated in a meeting with representatives from Clark County on the COVID-19 Vaccine Tier 1 Rollout

Bi-weekly Meetings (twice a week):

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

Bi-weekly Meetings (every two weeks):

- Participated in the Nevada FQHC CEO Bi-weekly Updates on Emerging Issues

Monthly Meetings:

- Participated in individual Board of Health Agenda Review meetings with Councilman Adams, Councilman Knudsen, Councilman Stewart, Bobbette Bond, Scott Nielson, and Councilwoman Diaz
- Presented at the Clark County Medical Society Townhall on the COVID-19 vaccine
- 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

Interviews:

- Interview with Jaclyn Schultz (KVVU-TV 5) on COVID-19 testing
- Participated in a media availability with Clark County on the COVID-19 vaccine update
- Panelist in the La Pandemia Ya Lleva un Año ¡Vacúnate para protegerte! webinar
- Interview with Johali Carmona (Telemundo) on the COVID-19 pandemic at one year
- Interview with Anita Snow (AP) on COVID-19 vaccinations in high risk communities

Ad-hoc Meetings:

- Participated in the BCHC/UHC Webinar on COVID-19 Inequities in Cities Dashboard

- Participated in a meeting with Governor Sisolak, along with representatives from the Governor's Office, Clark County Emergency Management and Clark County School District regarding COVID-19
- Participated in the 'WH COVID-19: State/Local Health Officials' webinar
- Participated in the White House IGA Office Briefing for State, Local, and Tribal Elected Officials
- Participated in a meeting with Dr. Edward Eckert regarding COVID-19 testing and CCSD opening
- Participated in a meeting with Clark County on the vaccination groups
- Participated in the BCHC Winter Meeting

Week ending 02/21:

Weekly Meetings:

- Participated in the CDC COVID-19 All State Update call
- Participated in the Nevada IZ Program weekly COVID vaccine microplanning meeting
- Participated in the Regional Policy Group meeting
- Participated in a meeting with representatives from Clark County on the COVID-19 Vaccine Tier 1 Rollout
- Participated in a meeting with SNHD Strategic COVID-19 Vaccination team
- 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
- Participated in the 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

Bi-weekly Meetings (twice a week):

- Participated in a meeting with SNHD Vaccination Campaign team on the COVID-19 vaccine
- Participated in meetings with representatives from the state and Clark County on the COVID-19 vaccine (normally triweekly)

Monthly Meetings:

- Attended the Clark County Medical Association Board of Trustee meeting
- Participated in individual Board of Health Agenda Review meetings with Councilman Black, Commissioner Kirkpatrick, Councilwoman Dutkowski, Commissioner Segerblom
- Participated in individual Community Health Center Agenda Review meeting with Tim Burch

Ad-hoc Meetings:

- Participated in a meeting with Assemblyperson Martinez regarding the Nevada Health Centers and Southern Nevada Community Health Center
- Participated in a meeting with Assemblywoman Carlton regarding the Nevada Primary Care and Southern Nevada Community Health Center
- Participated in the 'WH COVID-19: State/Local Health Officials' webinar

- Participated in a meeting with Assemblywoman Nguyen regarding the FirstMed Health and Wellness Center and Southern Nevada Community Health Center
- Participated in the Southern Nevada District Board of Health – District Health Officer Succession Committee meeting
- Participated in the White House IGA Office Briefing for State, Local, and Tribal Elected Officials
- Participated in a meeting with Assemblyman Yeager regarding Nevada Health Centers and Southern Nevada Community Health Center
- Participated in a meeting with the County regarding data entry resources for the vaccine campaign
- Participated in a Town Hall with Congresswoman Lee on the impending COVID relief package

Week ending 02/14:

Weekly Meetings:

- Participated in the CDC COVID-19 All State Update call
- Participated in the Nevada IZ Program weekly COVID vaccine microplanning meeting
- Participated in a meeting with representatives from Clark County on the COVID-19 Vaccine Tier 1 Rollout

Bi-weekly Meetings (twice a week):

- Participated in a weekly meeting with the Clark County Medical Society on the COVID-19 vaccine
- Participated in meetings with representatives from the state and Clark County on the COVID-19 vaccine (normally triweekly)

Interviews:

- Interview with Jeff Gillan (News 3) on demographics of COVID-19
- Participated in a media availability with Clark County on the COVID-19 vaccine update
- Interview with Michael Scott Davidson (Las Vegas Review-Journal) on vaccine equity

Ad-hoc Meetings:

- Presented at the Assembly Committee on Health and Human Services on public health in Southern Nevada
- Participated in a meeting with Commissioner Kirkpatrick on the Vaccination Campaign in high-risk ZIP codes
- Participated in five meetings with Brett Compston (LTC), Caleb Cage (Director), Heather Korbolic (Policy Director), Heidi Parker (Immunize Nevada), Candice McDaniel Immunization Bureau Chief, Julia Peek Deputy Administrator) and David Fogerson (EMHS Chief) on (1) the vaccination campaign, (2) the equity and fairness initiative, (3) vaccine issues, (4) finalizing the MOO, and (5) SNHD role in SB4
- Meeting with Commissioner Kirkpatrick on community outreach

Week ending 02/07:

Bi-weekly Meetings (twice a week):

- Participated in a meeting with representatives from Clark County on the COVID-19 Vaccine Tier 1 Rollout
- Participated in a 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 CDC COVID-19 All State Update call
- Participated in the Nevada IZ Program weekly COVID vaccine microplanning meeting
- Participated in the CDC COVID-19 Related Response Strategies meeting
- Participated in a Strategic COVID-Vaccination meeting with SNHD Vaccination Campaign team and ICS Policy Group
- Participated in a weekly meeting with representatives from the state, Clark County SNF and hospitals regarding Southern Nevada hospital discharges and placements

Interviews:

- Interview with Ed Komenda (USA Today) regarding a look at COVID-19 one year later and insight into the impact on residents of the 89110 ZIP code
- Participated in a media availability with Clark County on the COVID-19 vaccine update
- Interview with Samantha Diaz (Telemundo) regarding the Possible Exposure Place dashboard
- Interview by Megan Messerly (The Nevada Independent) regarding their COVID-19 one year later series

Ad-hoc Meetings:

- Introduction meeting with Dr. Marlow Hernandez Cano from Cano Health
- Participated in a meeting with Governor Sisolak, along with representatives from the Governor's Office, Clark County School District, and Clark County regarding COVID-19
- Participated in a meeting, facilitated by DHCFP, to discuss the COVID-19 vaccine administration in FQHCs
- Participated in a meeting with Councilman Knudsen, Councilman Black, Maureen Schafer and Todd Sklamberg about support for the vaccination campaign
- Meeting with Bradley Mayer and representatives from the Clark County School District regarding Senate Bill 2
- Participated in the 'WH COVID-19: State/Local Health Officials' webinar
- Participated in a meeting with Governor Sisolak, along with representatives from the Governor's Office, Clark County School District, and Clark County regarding COVID-19
- Participated in the Las Vegas HEALS Board of Directors meeting
- Participated in the Physician Coalition of Southern Nevada meeting
- Attended a demonstration for the Salesforce marketing cloud
- Presented at the REACH LAS VEGAS "Hablamos de la Vacuna COVID-19" forum
- Participated in a briefing presentation with Governor Sisolak, along with representatives from the Governor's Office, Clark County School District, and Clark County regarding COVID-19