



DATE: April 22, 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)

On April 13, the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) and FDA recommended a pause in the use of the Janssen COVID-19 vaccine after six cases of a rare but serious blood clot condition in individuals who received the vaccine. In these cases, a type of blood clot called cerebral venous sinus thrombosis (CVST) was seen in combination with low levels of blood platelets (thrombocytopenia). The pause allows time to provide health care providers with information to recognize and diagnose patients, treat them appropriately, and report cases that may be related to the vaccine. On April 14, the Nevada Department of Health and Human Services reported that a Nevadan was one of the six reported serious reactions to the Janssen COVID-19 vaccine.

The Southern Nevada Health District has stopped administering the Janssen vaccine at its clinics and advised its community partners to do the same. The Pfizer and Moderna vaccines are not associated with these rare but serious conditions, and the Health District continues to urge people to get vaccinated. As of April 16, 2021, there have been 786,686 COVID-19 doses initiated, 506,848 doses completed, and a total of 1,241,685 COVID-19 vaccines administered in Clark County.

The Technical Bulletin issued by the Nevada Department of Health and Human Services is available at

<https://media.southernnevadahealthdistrict.org/download/public-health-update/20210413-NV-State-Tech-Bulletin-Janssen-Pause.pdf>. Additional information is available on the CDC website at www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/vaccines/safety/JJUpdate.html.

Beginning May 5, the Health District's Cashman Center clinic location will be closing, and large-scale operations will be focused on the Las Vegas Convention Center site. This will allow available resources to be maximized, including using strike teams and pop-up clinic sites to vaccinate at smaller events and to reach higher-risk populations.

Updated information, including resources and clinic locations, is available on the Health District's COVID website at www.SNHD.info/covid.

COVID-19 Variants

The first known cases of the Brazilian COVID-19 variant, known as P.1, have been detected in Clark County. The Health District received notification about one case from the Nevada State Public Health Laboratory and information about two cases was forwarded from the CDC.

The Clark County residents include a male in his 20s who was not hospitalized and reports having on vaccine dose with domestic travel history; a male in his 40s with no travel history who was not hospitalized and has not been vaccinated; and a third male in his 30s with no history of travel who was not hospitalized or vaccinated. The Health District interviewed these individuals and conducted investigations to identify close contacts. Contacts of these cases are advised to self-quarantine and monitor their health for symptoms.

Additional information about 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.

Real Water

In March, the Health District announced it was working with the CDC to investigate a potential link between severe acute non-viral hepatitis and the consumption of an alkaline water product called “Real Water. The Health District received initial reports of the cases of acute non-viral hepatitis in November 2020. Five cases were reported in children who presented to a hospital between November 10, 2020, and December 3, 2020. The children’s ages ranged from 7 months to 5 years, and initial signs and symptoms included vomiting, poor intake, and fatigue. All patients required transfers to a pediatric tertiary-care specialty liver unit because of concerns of acute liver failure. All children recovered and were discharged home. The Health District continues to investigate similar illnesses in adults and children. People who consumed Real Water products and had acute non-viral hepatitis symptoms can complete a [survey](#) to assist the Health District in its investigation.

The FDA recommended that consumers, restaurants, and retailers discontinue drinking, cooking with, selling, or serving “Real Water” alkaline water, including serving it to pets. On March 24, Real Water, Inc., issued a [voluntary recall](#) of all its drinking water products.

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, 37 influenza-associated hospitalizations and six deaths associated with influenza have been reported as of April 3. The percentage of emergency room and urgent care clinic visits for influenza-like illness (ILI) was 1 percent in week 13 which was slightly higher than week 12 (0.8%). Approximately 42 percent of area emergency room and urgent care clinic visits for ILI were made by adults 18-44 years of age which was increased from week 12

(24%). 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 03/28:

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

Bi-weekly Meetings (every two weeks):

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

Monthly:

- Participated in individual Board of Health Agenda Review meeting with Commissioner Segerblom, Councilwoman Diaz, Councilman Adams, Councilman Knudsen, Councilman Stewart, Scott Nielson, Councilwoman Dutkowski
- Participated in the Southern Nevada Community Health Center Finance & 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

Interviews/Panelist/Presenter:

- Attended the "Back to Life" Campaign Kick-Off News Conference
- Interview with Michael Scott Davidson and Mary Hynes (Review Journal) on the recent decreases in the number of vaccines administered in Clark County each week

Ad-hoc Meetings:

- Participated in a meeting with representatives from Clark County on Vaccination Messaging
- Attended the White House COVID-19 Team: State/Local Health Officials webinar
- Participated in a meeting with Councilman Scott Black and Councilwoman Pamela Goynes-Brown on the vaccination campaign in the African American community

- Participated in a meeting with Councilwoman Pamela Goynes-Brown on the vaccination campaign in North Las Vegas
- Participated in a meeting with representatives from Clark County on Hotel Vaccination Strike Teams
- Participated in a meeting with Dr. Laura Culley on UNLV Medical Student Volunteers
- Participated in the Graduate Medical Education Committee (GMEC) meeting
- Participated in a meeting with SNHD staff on the National Initiative to Address COVID-19 Health Disparities
- Attended the UNLV School of Medicine, Office of Research, Technical Writing for Scientific Publication webinar (Part 1 of 2)
- Participated in a meeting with Councilwoman Pamela Goynes-Brown to film a public announcement on the vaccination campaign in North Las Vegas
- Participated in the White House IGA Office Briefing for State, Local, and Tribal Elected Officials

Week ending 03/21:

Weekly Meetings:

- Participated in the 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 meeting with the State and Clark County on the COVID-19 Vaccine Recap
- Participated in the CDC COVID-19 Related Response Strategies 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 meeting with SNHD Vaccination Campaign team on the COVID-19 vaccine

Monthly:

- Participated in individual Board of Health Agenda Review meeting with Councilman Black and Commissioner Kirkpatrick
- Attended the Clark County Medical Society Townhall on the COVID-19 vaccine

Quarterly:

- Participated in the TB Cohort Review 2020 Q3

Interviews:

- Interview with Kathia Quiros (Immigrando con Kathia) on the COVID-19 vaccine
- Interview with Jeremy Chen (Channel 13) on the future of pandemic responses, what we've learned, and what the future holds for preventing other pandemics in the future
- Interview with Luz Gray/Michelle Rindells (The Nevada Independent) on what happens after getting the vaccine
- Interview with Fernando Renteria (Univision) on vaccine availability, access and health insurance

Ad-hoc Meetings:

- Participated in a meeting with Xtreme Cubes regarding the repurposing of the Isolation & Recovery Site
- Participated in the Grand Rounds – March 2021 at UNLV
- Participated in a meeting with Nevada’s State Treasurer Zach Conine
- Participated in a meeting with Melissa Peek-Bullock, Dr. Ihsan Azzam, and Health District staff on the Hepatitis Cluster
- Participated in a meeting with Senator Cortez-Masto
- Participated in a meeting with Senator Rosen
- Participated in the White House IGA Office Briefing for State, Local, and Tribal Elected Officials
- Participated in a meeting with Cano Health on assistance in distributing vaccines to underserved communities
- Attended the Strong Tower Christian Center to meet with Pastor Camilo Perez
- Attended the El Shaddai Christian Center to meet with Pastor Marco Gamboa
- Participated in a meeting with Councilman Scott Black on the vaccination campaign in the African American community

Week ending 03/14:

Weekly Meetings:

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

Bi-weekly Meetings (every two weeks):

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

Interviews:

- Interview by Michael Scott Davidson (Review-Journal) on equitable access to the vaccine in Clark County
- Panelist on the Pandemic Solutions Group Webinar on language and technological literacy barriers in obtaining a vaccine appointment
- Panelist on a Spanish-language Town Hall, with Councilwoman Olivia Diaz, hosted by Congressman Horsford on the myths of the vaccine
- Interview by El Robert (KISF - 103.5 Zona Mix) on the COVID-19 vaccine, vaccine availability and locations
- Interview by DJ Ocho (KRGV 99.3 Latino Mix) on the COVID-19 vaccine, vaccine availability and locations

Ad-hoc Meetings:

- Participated in a meeting between SNHD, GCB, NDEM, CCOEM and DPBH regarding the vaccination campaign
- Participated in a meeting with representatives from Amazon regarding their vaccination campaign
- Participated in a meeting with Commissioner Kirkpatrick, Chief Steinbeck, Chief Cassell and Deputy Chief Samuels regarding the vaccination campaign
- Participated in the White House IGA Office Briefing for State, Local, and Tribal Elected Officials
- Participated in a meeting on FEMA Vaccination Projects
- Participated in a meeting with Commissioner Kirkpatrick, Chief Steinbeck, Chief Cassell and Deputy Chief Samuels regarding the vaccination campaign
- Attended a tour of the Wynn COVID-19 Testing Lab

Week ending 03/07:

Weekly Meetings:

- Participated in the 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 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 the CDC COVID-19 Related Response Strategies 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 meeting with SNHD Vaccination Campaign team on the COVID-19 vaccine

Interviews:

- Interview with the Philippine Nurses Association of Nevada for the PHLV Radio Podcast

Professional Development

- Attended the COCA Call on What Clinicians Need to Know About the Janssen COVID-19 Vaccine
- Attended the University of Nevada, Reno Pain Management Project ECHO clinic
- Attended the University of Nevada, Reno STI and HIV Clinical Update

Ad-hoc Meetings:

- Attended the CDC Emergency Advisory Committee of Immunization Practices (ACIP) meeting

- Participated in a meeting with COVID-19 Task Force, along with representatives from the Governor's Office, and Clark County on Hospitality Vaccination Efforts
- Participated in a CDC COVID-19 All State Update on the Janssen COVID-19 Vaccine
- Participated in the 'WH COVID-19: State/Local Health Officials' webinar
- Participated in a Supplementary Q&A Session with the CDC COVID-19 All State Update on the Janssen COVID-19 vaccine
- Participated in a meeting with James Oscarson and Noah Smith from ReadyResponders
- Participated in the White House IGA Office Briefing for State, Local, and Tribal Elected Officials
- Participated in a meeting with Mason Van Houweling (UMC) on Stan Fulton Testing Process
- Participated in a Q&A Session with the FDA Acting Commissioner Janet Woodcock, Director of the Center for Biologics Evaluation and Research Dr. Peter Marks, and CDC Leadership about the COVID-19 vaccine, emerging COVID-19 variants, and the Emergency Use Authorization of the new Janssen COVID-19 vaccine

