



DATE: May 27, 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 June 1, Clark County's Local COVID-19 Mitigation & Enforcement Plan will end, and businesses and organizations will be able to resume pre-pandemic occupancy guidelines. The county has also adopted Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) guidance for wearing face masks. The guidance advises that people who are fully vaccinated do not need to wear a mask in most indoor and outdoor locations. Nevada's emergency directed related to the use of face mask requirements aligns with the CDC guidance and neither requires nor prohibits private entities from confirming the vaccination status of individuals or private entities and organizations from having mask policies that are more restrictive than CDC guidance.

On Monday, May 10, the U.S. Food and Drug Administration expanded the Emergency Use Authorization (EUA) for Pfizer's COVID-19 vaccine to include adolescents 12-15 years of age. On Wednesday, May 12, the Advisory Committee on Immunization Practices (ACIP) met to make final recommendations for the use of the vaccine for adolescents in this age group. Based on the final recommendations of the ACIP, the Southern Nevada Health District will begin administering Pfizer COVID-19 vaccine to children ages 12 and older at Health District sites. Registration for appointments is available at www.snhd.info/covid-vaccine.

Children are just as susceptible to getting the virus that causes COVID-19 as adults and the availability of the COVID-19 for this age group is welcome news. Younger people may not be as likely to get severely ill, but it is still a risk, and they can spread the virus to others who may be more at risk for complications from the illness. Children who are newly eligible to get the vaccine can do so at existing Health District and partner sites that administer the Pfizer vaccine. Children under the age of 18 must also have written consent from a parent or guardian at the time of services. The Health District's policy is available on its website at www.southernnevadahealthdistrict.org/about-us/general-information/policies-regulations/.

The COVID-19 vaccines are safe, effective and free, and the Health District is urging parents and guardians to ensure their children are fully vaccinated and protected from COVID-19. More information about COVID-19 vaccines for children and teens is available on the CDC website at www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/vaccines/recommendations/adolescents.html.

The Health District opened the valley's first large-scale drive through COVID-19 vaccine clinic sites at the Las Vegas Convention Center on May 4 and Texas Station on May 11. The Texas Station site also offers COVID-19 testing. The Las Vegas Convention site operates Tuesdays

through Saturdays, with appointments available from 8:15 a.m. to 3:30 p.m. The Texas Station site operates seven days a week from 7 a.m. to 12 p.m. It is a six-week clinic location and will be open for six weeks to accommodate appointments for first and second doses of the vaccine

Appointments at Health District and community partner vaccine clinics are available at www.snhd.info/covid-vaccine or by calling the state's vaccine hotline at 1-800-401-0946, 7 a.m. to 8 p.m. daily. Additional clinic information can be found online at www.NVCOVIDFighter.org. The site also features live chat support to make scheduling a COVID-19 vaccine appointment and getting information about the vaccine more accessible.

COVID-19 updates including daily case counts, reports, the weekly vaccine snapshot, and a new weekly breakthrough cases report, are available on the Health District website at www.snhd.info/covid.

COVID-19 Variants

The Southern Nevada Health District has identified the first known case of the B.1.617.2 variant in Clark County. The B.1.617.2 variant was first identified in India and is considered a variant of concern. The variant was detected locally in a sample tested by the Southern Nevada Public Health Laboratory. The public health laboratory conducts sequencing as part of ongoing surveillance efforts to detect variants that may be circulating in Clark County.

The Clark County resident who tested positive for the B.1.617.2 variant is a woman in her 20s. She did not report any recent travel, was not hospitalized, and has not received the COVID-19 vaccine. A contact investigation is being conducted.

New variants of the virus that cause COVID-19 are spreading in the United States. Current data suggest that COVID-19 vaccines currently authorized for use offer protection against most variants. As of May 11, in Clark County, the following variants have been detected: 242 cases of the B.1.1.7; five cases of B.1351; five cases of B.1.429; and 28 cases of P.1.

Real Water

In March, the Southern Nevada Health District announced it was working with its federal partners to investigate reports of acute non-viral hepatitis in Clark County.

The Health District initially received reports of five cases of severe acute non-viral hepatitis in children between November 23, 2020, and December 3, 2020. On April 26, the Health District announced it identified six additional probable cases (for a total of 11 probable cases). The 11 probable cases were all hospitalized and have since been released. None of the children or adults required a transplant. One suspect case has also been identified. This person meets the clinical criteria but has not been tested for viral hepatitis. This individual was also hospitalized and has recovered.

To date, the consumption of "Real Water" brand alkaline water was found to be the only common link between all the identified cases. The FDA is conducting a further investigation into the facility, and the Health District continues to monitor for cases of acute non-viral hepatitis. Additional reports are currently being investigated based on people who self-identified to the Health District, were reported by a health care provider, or because their Real Water subscription was canceled due to health concerns.

The ages of the children identified during the initial investigation range from 7 months to 5 years. The ages of adult cases from 32 to 71 years of age. The most common symptoms reported by the patients included nausea and vomiting, fatigue, loss of appetite, and dizziness. The FDA has recommended that consumers, restaurants, and retailers discontinue drinking, cooking with, selling, or serving “Real Water” alkaline water. More information on the investigation is available on the FDA’s [website](#).

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, 49 influenza-associated hospitalizations and six deaths associated with influenza have been reported as of May 1. The percentage of emergency room and urgent care clinic visits for influenza-like illness (ILI) was 1% in week 18 which was the same as week 17 (1%). Approximately 40 percent of area emergency room and urgent care clinic visits for ILI were made by adults 18-44 years of age which was decreased from week 17 (41%). 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 55 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 04/25:

Weekly Meetings:

- Participated in the CDC COVID-19 All State Update call
- Participated in the Regional Policy Group meeting
- Participated in the WH COVID-19 Team: State/Local Health Officials meeting
- White House IGA Weekly Briefing call
- 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 State of Nevada and Local Health Authorities Statewide COVID-19 Coordination Standing meeting
- Participated in the Nevada FQHC CEO Bi-weekly Updates on Emerging Issues

Monthly:

- Participated in individual Board of Health Agenda Review meeting with Councilman Adams, Councilman Knudsen, Scott Nielson, Councilman Stewart, Councilman Black, Councilwoman Dutkowski, Commissioner Segerblom

- 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

Quarterly Meetings:

- Participated in the Regional Trauma Advisory Board (RTAB) meeting

Media/Interviews/Panelist/Presenter:

- Media availability on the COVID-19 Vaccination Efforts

Ad-hoc Meetings:

- Participated in a meeting with representatives from Clark County on the Proposed Mitigation and Enforcement Plan
- Participated in the April 2021 Monitoring meeting with HRSA
- Participated in a meeting with the Clark County/SNHD Working Group for the Transfer of Contracts
- Participated in the CDC exit meeting for the Epi-Aid team with SNHD and NV DHHS
- Participated in a meeting with Father Rafael regarding vaccination efforts at All Saints' Episcopal Church
- Participated in the ACIP Report on J&J Vaccine

Week ending 04/18:

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
- White House IGA Weekly Briefing call
- Participated in a meeting with representatives from Clark County on the COVID-19 Vaccine Tier 1 Rollout

Monthly:

- Participated in the Southern Nevada Health District Finance Committee meeting

Bi-monthly Meetings (every two months):

- Participated in the Public Health Commission meeting

Quarterly Meetings:

- Participated in the Southern Nevada Public Health Advisory Board meeting

Media/Interviews/Panelist/Presenter:

- Media availability on the Janssen vaccine
- Media availability at Cashman Center

Professional Development:

- Update on Early Treatment of COVID-19 with Dr. Kara Chew and Dr. Judith Currier

Ad-hoc Meetings:

- Participated in a meeting with representatives from the State regarding EDC COVID-19 Protocols and Mitigation Measures
- Participated in a meeting with Pastors at Iglesia Amistad Cristiana
- Participated in the County Health Rankings & Roadmaps 101 webinar
- Participated in a meeting with representatives from Clark County on County/SNHD Coordination of Resources
- Participated in a meeting with representatives from Clark County on the Proposed Mitigation and Enforcement Plan
- Participated in the ACIP Report on J&J Vaccine
- Participated in a meeting with representatives from Clark County on the Local Transition Plan
- Participated in the Earning Trust, Building Vaccine Confidence: Learning from Global and Local Initiatives

Week ending 04/11:

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 representatives from Clark County on the COVID-19 Vaccine Tier 1 Rollout

Bi-weekly Meetings (every two weeks):

- Participated in the State of Nevada and Local Health Authorities Statewide COVID-19 Coordination Standing meeting
- Participated in the Nevada FQHC CEO Bi-weekly Updates on Emerging Issues

Monthly:

- Participated in the BCHC Monthly Member call

Media/Interviews/Panelist/Presenter:

- Interview with Samantha Diaz (KBLR/TV 39/Telemundo) on expanded eligibility for vaccine
- Interview with Rubin Kihuen (87.7FM) on expanded eligibility of vaccine

Ad-hoc Meetings:

- Participated in a meeting with representations from HHS, FEMA and Clark County
- Participated in a meeting with representatives from Clark County on large gatherings
- Participated in a meeting with Dr. Edwin Oh (UNLV) and SNHD staff on wastewater surveillance
- Attended the White House COVID-19 Team: State/Local Health Officials webinar

- Participated in a meeting with the CDC and Region 9 Health Authorities on the National Initiative to Address COVID-19 Health Disparities – Regional Funding Discussion
- Attended the Congressional Briefing: Ready or Not 2021: Protecting the Public’s Health from Disease, Disaster and Bioterrorism
- Participated in a meeting with representations from HHS and FEMA on PA needs for vaccine distribution/administration
- Participated in a meeting with representations from HHS and FEMA on advanced data analytics on vaccine coordination and disproportionately affected communities
- Participated in a meeting with representatives from Clark County on the Local Transition Plan
- Participated in meetings with two UNLV First Year Medical School students to discuss SNHD research opportunities
- Participated in a meeting with the State of Nevada and Local Health Authorities on the COVID Next Steps
- Participated in a meeting with representatives from Clark County on the Local Transition Plan

Week ending 04/04:

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

Media/Interviews/Panelist/Presenter:

- Participated in a media availability on the COVID-19 vaccine update
- Interview with Adriana Arevalo (Voice of America) on fewer COVID-19 vaccine appointments booked
- Attended a site visit at Cashman Center with Senator Rosen and Senator Cortez Masto

Professional Development:

- Virtual Grand Rounds: COVID-19 and School Re-openings
- Spotlight on COVID Recovery Efforts: Increasing Access to At-Home Testing

Ad-hoc Meetings:

- Participated in a meeting with representatives from Clark County on Vaccination Messaging
- Participated in a meeting with representatives from Clark County and the resort industry on Large Gatherings
- Participated in a webinar on the HRSA Electronic Handbooks system
- Participated in a meeting with representatives from Nevada Department of Health and Human Services on the concerns in rise of syphilis cases in pregnant women in Pahrump