



DATE: June 24, 2021

TO: Southern Nevada District Board of Health Members

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

SUBJECT: District Health Officer Report *FL*

Coronavirus Disease 2019 (COVID-19)

On June 1, the community returned to pre-pandemic occupancy guidelines. The Southern Nevada Health District is continuing to stress the importance of getting fully vaccinated and testing to maintain the progress that has been made and ensure the community remains safe and healthy. People who have not been fully vaccinated should continue to follow Centers for Disease Control and Prevention guidelines and wear face masks and practice social distancing.

The Health District and community partners offer clinics throughout the community to make it convenient for people to the COVID-19 vaccine. Vaccine locations have included school district sites and a clinic at Allegiant Stadium. The COVID-19 vaccines clinic at Allegiant Stadium was held in the Modelo Cantina Club overlooking the field. All Health District and community partner clinics are available at www.snhd.info/covid-vaccine.

Information about COVID-19 vaccine clinics throughout Clark County 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 testing information is also available on the Health District website at www.snhd.info/covid-testing.

The Health District's COVID-19 Dashboard is available at www.snhd.info/covid-cases. The dashboard now includes a vaccine summary with the percent of initiated vaccines by age group. The percent of people who have received one dose of the vaccine by age group as of June 14:

- 58.48% of people 18 years and older
- 55.89% of people 16 years and older
- 52.97% of people 12 years and older

Real Water

On May 20, the Health District reported five additional probable cases linked to its investigation of acute non-viral hepatitis illness in Clark County residents and the death of one person who was identified as a probable case. The patient who died was a woman in her 60s with underlying medical conditions and is one of the five new probable cases reported. This brings the total to 16 probable and one suspect case. On June 1, the FDA announced that Real Water inc. had agreed to cease operations until they can comply with the Federal Food, Drug, and

Cosmetic Act (FD&C Act) and other requirements listed in a consent decree. More information is available on the FDA [website](#).

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. The additional probable cases are all adults. The 15 people identified as probable cases who have recovered were hospitalized and have since been released. None of the children or adults required a transplant. The one suspect case 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 exposure associated with all the identified cases. Additional reports currently being investigated by the Health District include but are not limited to 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 the adult cases range from 32 to 71 years of age. The most common symptoms reported by the patients included nausea, vomiting, fatigue, loss of appetite, and dizziness.

Acute non-viral hepatitis is an inflammation of the liver that can be caused by exposure to toxins, autoimmune disease, or drinking too much alcohol. Though hepatitis can have many causes, symptoms often include fever, fatigue, loss of appetite, nausea, vomiting, abdominal pain, dark urine, light-colored stools, joint pain, and yellow skin or eyes. Anyone who is experiencing these symptoms should contact their health care provider.

40 Years of HIV

The Health District joined with UMC and other community partners to mark 40 years since the first five cases of AIDS were officially reported and to announce a new HIV testing initiative at a news conference on June 4. As a result of a grant from CDC, community members will soon have access to no-cost HIV and STI testing at all nine UMC Quick Care locations in the Las Vegas Valley.

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 ended on May 22, 2021. Surveillance reports were distributed throughout the season and are available on the Health District website at www.southernnevadahealthdistrict.org/news-info/statistics-surveillance-reports/influenza-surveillance/.

In Clark County, 50 influenza-associated hospitalizations and six deaths associated with influenza have been reported as of May 22. The percentage of emergency room and urgent care clinic visits for influenza-like illness (ILI) was 1 percent in week 20 which was the same as week 19 (1%). Approximately 36% 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 16 (32%). 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. This is the last weekly report of the season.

Community Meetings

Week ending 05/30:

Weekly Meetings:

- Participated in the CDC COVID-19 All State Update call
- 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 individual Board of Health Agenda Review meeting with Councilwoman Diaz, Councilman Adams, Councilman Knudsen, Councilman Stewart, Scott Nielson, Bobbette Bond, Councilwoman Dutkowski
- Participated in the Southern Nevada Community Health Center Nominations Committee meeting
- Participated in the Southern Nevada Community Health Center Finance & Audit Committee meeting
- Attended the Clark County Medical Society Board of Trustee 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

Professional Development:

- Attended the "COVID-19 Lessons to Inform Pandemic Influenza Response" public workshop on "Lessons Learned Across Fields" hosted by the National Academy of Medicine
- Attended the "Learning to Live with COVID-19" webinar hosted by American Public Health Association (APHA)
- Attended the "How to Save A Life" Suicide Prevention Seminar hosted by the Clark County Medical Society

Ad-hoc Meetings:

- Attended the Technical Assistance Webinar for the COVID-19 grant
- Participated in a meeting with Southern Hills Hospital and Medical Center on SNHD FQHC primary care service needs

Week ending 05/23:

Weekly Meetings:

- Participated in the Regional Policy Group meeting
- Participated in the Nevada IZ Program weekly COVID vaccine microplanning 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

Monthly:

- Participated in individual Board of Health Agenda Review meeting with Councilman Black, Commissioner Kirkpatrick, and Commissioner Segerblom

Media/Interviews/Panelist/Presenter:

- Interview with John Treanor (Channel 3) on the updated mask guidance
- Presented at the Clark County Board of Commissioners meeting on the COVID-19 Regional Mitigation and Enforcement Plan
- Media Availability on a COVID-19 Update
- Panelist at the Make the Road Nevada meeting (English/Spanish) on the COVID-19 vaccine

Professional Development:

- Attended the Preventive Medicine 2021 Virtual Conference hosted by the American College of Preventive Medicine (May 15-19, 2021)
- Attended the "COVID-19 Lessons to Inform Pandemic Influenza Response" public workshop on "Global Coordination" hosted by the National Academy of Medicine
- Attended the "COVID-19 Lessons to Inform Pandemic Influenza Response" public workshop on "Supply Chain Cascade" hosted by the National Academy of Medicine

Ad-hoc Meetings:

- Attended the APHA's webinar Introducing the All of Us Research Hub
- Attended the Africa Day 2021 Las Vegas Celebration

Week ending 05/16:

Weekly Meetings:

- Participated in the Nevada IZ Program weekly COVID vaccine microplanning meeting
- Participated in the CDC COVID-19 Related Response Strategies meeting
- Participated in the White House IGA Weekly Briefing call

Monthly:

- Participated in the BHC Monthly Member call

Media/Interviews/Panelist/Presenter:

- Media Availability at Texas Station – Clinic Preview and Campaign Kick-Off

Professional Development:

- Attended the "COVID-19 Vaccines: An Update on Research & Global Availability" webinar hosted The Lancet Infectious Diseases
- Attended the Preventive Medicine 2021 Virtual Conference hosted by the American College of Preventive Medicine

Ad-hoc Meetings:

- Participated in a meeting with Commissioner Kirkpatrick on the social distancing requirements and dancing
- Participated in a meeting with Big Cities Health Coalition on their Urban Health Agenda project
- Participated in a meeting with representatives from Clark County on COVID-19 Vaccination Administration
- Participated in a meeting with Dr. Thomas Hunt, Program Director at Valley Health Systems Family Medicine Residency Program, on the Health District's open physician positions

Week ending 05/09:

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 WH COVID-19 Team: State/Local Health Officials meeting
- White House IGA Weekly Briefing call

Bi-weekly Meetings (every two weeks):

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

Quarterly Meetings:

- Participated in the Desert Meadows Area Health Education Center (DM AHEC) meeting

Professional Development:

- Attended "The Leadership Challenge of our Lifetime: Creating a Strategic Recovery Plan to Maximize Staff Health and Program Outcomes" webinar (Part 1 of 3) hosted by the University of Nevada, Reno, School of Medicine

Ad-hoc Meetings:

- Participated in a meeting with NVPCA on the Public Option Bill SB420
- Participated in a meeting with representatives from Clark County on COVID-19 Vaccination Administration
- Participated in the Department of Homeland Security BD21 Program Update
- Participated in a meeting with Big Cities Health Coalition on their Urban Health Agenda project

Week ending 05/02:

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

Quarterly Meetings:

- Participated in the Facilities Advisory Board meeting

Media/Interviews/Panelist/Presenter:

- Interview with Esta En Tus Manos on the COVID-19 Update/Vaccine Update
- Telethon (Pre-recorded) Interview with Samantha Diaz (Telemundo) on a COVID-19 Update

Professional Development:

- Attended the “Making it Plain: Minority Health Professionals and Community Organizations Fight COVID Together” livestream town hall hosted by the Black Coalition Against COVID-19 (BCAC)
- Attended the “COVID-19 Communications: Real-World Insights to Promote Vaccine Acceptance” webinar hosted by the National Foundation for Infectious Diseases (NFID)
- Attended the Annual Update on HIV Management: State-of-the-Art Updates on HIV, STIs, and COVID-19 webinar hosted by the International Antiviral Society-USA

Ad-hoc Meetings:

- Participated in a meeting with representatives from Clark County on COVID-19 Vaccination Administration
- Participated in a meeting with Dr. Laura Culley and Councilwoman Diaz on UNLV Medical Student Volunteers in ZIP code 89110