



DATE: August 26, 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 more public and private businesses are requiring their employees to either be vaccinated or get regularly tested for COVID-19, as well as venues and special events, the Southern Nevada Health District and its partners are responding to the increased demand with additional clinic sites and resources for testing and vaccines.

As of August 13, a total of 2,234,626 doses of COVID-19 vaccine have been administered in Clark County. The total number of vaccinations initiated is 1,302,557; the number of vaccinations completed is 1,035,172. Approximately 69.45 percent of adults age 18 and older have initiated vaccination. Approximately 56.06 percent of adults age 18 and older have completed vaccination. Up-to-date vaccination information is available on the data section of the Health District's website at www.snhd.info/covid-cases.

The Health District also reports information about cases of COVID-19 in people who have been fully vaccinated. As of August 11, there have been reports of 4,377 fully vaccinated individuals testing positive for COVID-19. This represents 0.43 percent amongst the fully vaccinated or 43 cases out of every 10,000 fully vaccinated people. The report is also available on the data section of the Health District's website.

The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) strengthened its recommendations for pregnant people to get the COVID-19 vaccine as a result of new data underscoring its safety and effectiveness in both early and later stages of pregnancy. This timely recommendation comes as health care providers are reporting increases in hospitalizations of unvaccinated pregnant people with severe cases of illness. More information on recommendations for pregnant people is available at www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/vaccines/recommendations/pregnancy.html.

Additionally, the Food and Drug Administration (FDA) and the CDC's Advisory Committee on Immunization Practices (ACIP) recommended an additional dose of COVID-19 vaccine for individuals who are immunocompromised. ACIP recommends that patients work with their health care providers to determine if they should receive an additional dose and the timing to receive it. The Health District will follow Nevada Department of Health and Human Services (NVDHHS) and ACIP guidelines with regard to administering a third dose to this population. More information about the recommendations is available on the CDC website at www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/vaccines/recommendations/immuno.html.

Fentanyl Deaths Increase in Clark County

The Health District issued an advisory after five fentanyl-related deaths occurred in Clark County during a 24-hour period in August 2021. Between January and May 2021, there were 92 deaths among Clark County residents, a 39 percent increase over the same period in 2020 when 66 deaths were reported. In 2020, there were a total of 193 fentanyl deaths; 72 deaths were reported in 2019. The Health District reminded Southern Nevadans of the continued public health risk that fentanyl poses to the community and that it can be found in other drugs.

Fentanyl is a synthetic (man-made) opioid drug that is highly potent (80-100 times stronger than morphine) and often illicitly manufactured. Deaths involving illicit fentanyl have been increasing. Fentanyl can be mixed with illicit substances (often unknowingly) to look like heroin, cocaine or methamphetamine. More commonly, fentanyl is being pressed into counterfeit pills and sold on the street as Percocet, Xanax, or Oxycodone, which is contributing factor in the increase of fatal overdose.

Since 2018, 412 Clark County residents died from fentanyl. Of these, 67 percent were male. Racial breakdowns were as follows: 52 percent White; 16 percent Black; 2 percent Asian; and 25 percent Hispanic/Latino. Other drugs are often involved in overdoses, with the most common being prescription opioids (27 percent), benzodiazepines (26 percent), psychostimulants such as methamphetamine (25 percent), cocaine (18 percent), and heroin (6 percent). These proportions are not mutually exclusive as more than one drug can contribute to a death.

The Health District and the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) recommend people who are at risk of opioid overdose, as well as family members, friends or other individuals who can assist a person at risk should carry naloxone, also known as Narcan®, an opioid-antagonist that can be administered to help reverse opioid overdoses.

The Health District's main public health center offers free naloxone at its pharmacy at 280 S. Decatur Blvd. Other naloxone access points can be found at [Nevada State Opioid Response Naloxone Finder](#). Additional overdose prevention measures and training are available to the community through local harm reduction organizations, including Health District partner organization [Trac-B Exchange](#).

2021 Southern Nevada Substance Misuse and Overdose Prevention Summit

Health District staff worked with partners to host the virtual 2021 Southern Nevada Substance Misuse and Overdose Prevention Summit – A Blueprint for Action: Addressing the Social Determinants of Health on Tuesday, August 10, from 8 a.m. to 5 p.m.

The summit organizers invited participants to envision a community where “not one life is lost to substance misuse or overdose.” Session topics discussed achieving this goal by addressing the social determinants of health in the community: racism and discrimination, housing, education, income, and neighborhood conditions. Speakers discussed collaborating in traditional and non-traditional ways to analyze health equity data and adopt a “health in all policies” approach to create the healthiest community. The summit also featured a virtual resource fair to connect participants to community organizations.

Back-to-School

The Health District worked with its partners to help parents and guardians prepare for the return of in-school instruction by offering back-to-school and COVID-19 vaccines at middle school and high school locations throughout the valley. The Health District and Immunize Nevada also hosted a Saturday Shot

Clinic on Saturday, August 7 to provide one more opportunity before the first day of school for children to get vaccinated. As a special incentive to get parents and guardians to bring their children in early to an immunization clinic, Health District employees held a backpack and school supply drive, and 500 fully-stuffed backpacks were distributed to children at Health District clinics.

The Clark County School District requires the following vaccinations for students enrolling in school: chickenpox (varicella), hepatitis A, hepatitis B, polio, tetanus-diphtheria-pertussis (DTaP and Tdap), quadrivalent meningitis, and measles-mumps-rubella (MMR). Children entering 7th grade must be immunized against tetanus-diphtheria-pertussis (Tdap) as well as *Neisseria meningitidis* (meningitis) in the form of a quadrivalent meningococcal conjugate vaccine (MenACWY). The meningitis vaccine is also required for 8th through 12th grade students who are new to the Clark County School District. A booster dose of quadrivalent meningococcal conjugate and the meningococcal B vaccines are recommended for teens who are 16 to 18 years old. College freshmen younger than 23 years old who are enrolled at a Nevada college or university and living in a dormitory are required to receive the meningococcal vaccine.

Community Meetings

Week ending 07/23:

Weekly Meetings:

- Participated in the CDC COVID-19 All State, Tribal, Local, and Territorial Update call

Monthly:

- Participated in individual Board of Health Agenda Review meeting with Councilwoman Dutkowsi and Councilman Stewart

Media/Interviews/Panelist/Presenter:

- Interview with Dan Frosch (Wall Street Journal) on the recent increase in COVID-19 cases in Clark County, Delta variant and recent mask recommendation issued.

Ad-hoc Meetings:

- Participated in the Regional Policy meeting
- Meeting with Dr. Dale Netski (UNLV School of Medicine) to discuss a collaboration with medical students participating in the SNHD educational campaign for COVID-19 vaccination.

Week ending 07/16:

Weekly Meetings:

- Participated in the CDC COVID-19 All State, Tribal, Local, and Territorial 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 the White House IGA Weekly Briefing call
- Participated in the COVID weekly meeting with Commissioner Kirkpatrick and representatives of the resort industry

Bi-weekly (every two weeks):

- Participated in a meeting with representatives from Clark County and the State DEM on various grants for vaccines, congregate and non-congregate sheltering

Monthly:

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

Quarterly:

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

Annually:

- Participated in the Southern Nevada Health District Nomination of Officers Committee meeting

Media/Interviews/Panelist/Presenter:

- Interview with Erin Banco (Politico) on the Delta variant and the state of the local vaccination campaign in your region
- Presented at a media availability on the mask recommendation issued

Ad-hoc Meetings:

- Participated in the Regional Policy meeting
- Participated in a Hospital Surge Briefing with hospital representatives
- Participated in a Hospital Surge Briefing with hospital representations and NHA
- Participated in a meeting with City Manager Jorge Cervantes regarding building space
- Participated in the Regional Policy meeting

Week ending 07/09:

Weekly Meetings:

- Participated in the CDC COVID-19 Related Response Strategies meeting
- Participated in the White House IGA Weekly Briefing call

Monthly:

- Participated in the BCHC Monthly Members Call

Media/Interviews/Panelist/Presenter:

- Interview with Cafecito con Luz y Michelle (Nevada Independent) on the Delta variant and the latest efforts on addressing vaccine hesitation in the Latino community

Ad-hoc Meetings:

- Who COVID-19 Response: State/Local Health Officials Update
- Participated in the Regional Policy meeting
- Participated in the American Rescue Plan Act Interview with Clark County
- Attended a meeting at Southern Hills Hospital

Week ending 07/02:

Weekly Meetings:

- Participated in the CDC COVID-19 All State, Tribal, Local, and Territorial Update call
- Participated in the CDC COVID-19 Related Response Strategies meeting
- Participated in the White House IGA Weekly Briefing call

Media/Interviews/Panelist/Presenter:

- Presented at a media availability with Councilman Black and Commissioner Kirkpatrick on a COVID-19 update

- Presented at the Camino Hacia la Recuperacion de la Pandemia (Spanish-language) webinar hosted by Junta Comunitaria
- Interview with Adriana Arevalo (Voices of Amercia) on the rise in COVID-19 cases and positivity rate
- Interview with Victoria Saha (KLAS-TV 8) on the Governor's request for FEMA assistance to control the rise in COVID-19 cases, vaccination sites and testing options
- Interview with Rubin Kihuen (98.1FM and 87.7FM) on the rise in COVID-19 cases, the new Delta variant and vaccination sites

Professional Development:

- Attended the "Consortium Management 101: Development and Engagement Strategies for Success in building community resources for those with Opioid Use Disorder" webinar hosted by the Providers Clinical Support System
- Attended the RF Pandemic Solutions Group webinar on strategies on how public health officials can incorporate community health workers into their pandemic response & recovery

Ad-hoc Meetings:

- Participated in a meeting with representatives from Clark County and the State on the State's further support of vaccination efforts
- Participated in the Nevada Minority Health and Equity Coalition (Spanish-language) webinar planning meeting
- Participated in the Regional Policy meeting
- Participated in a meeting with representatives of the resort industry and Commissioner Kirkpatrick on COVID-19 guest housing
- Participated in a meeting with representatives from Clark County and the State on vaccination interventions
- Participated in a meeting with Commissioner Kirkpatrick and representatives from the ZONE Nightclub Industry
- Participated in a meeting with Dr. Aditi Singh, Program Director at UNLV Internal Medicine Residency Program, on the Health District's open physician positions
- Participated in a meeting with Mark Scherzer on the Digital Healthcare Transformation Assembly
- Participated in a meeting with representatives from Clark County and the State DEM on various grants for vaccines, congregate and non-congregate sheltering