

# Memorandum

**Date:** August 10, 2021

I.

To: Southern Nevada District Board of Health

From: Michael Johnson, PhD, Director of Community Health

Fermin Leguen, MD, MPH, District Health Officer FL

**Subject:** Community Health Division Monthly Activity Report – July 2021

# OFFICE OF CHRONIC DISEASE PREVENTION & HEALTH PROMOTION (OCDPHP)

# A. Chronic Disease Prevention Program (CDPP)

The Soda Free Summer/Verano Sin Soda initiative continued in June. The initiative is geared toward the Hispanic community. To date, nearly 500 people have pledged to reduce or eliminate soda/SSB consumption this summer. Partner promotoras participated in 1 health fair in June at Cardenas Market to promote the initiative and distribute educational and promotional materials. To date, CDP and promotoras have posted 70 times on Facebook about the initiative and generated over 8,000 views. The initiative will continue through early August.

As part of the REACH grant, the CDPP provides support to the Kijiji Sisterhood organization, an organization dedicated to providing birthing and breastfeeding support to Black and Brown families. CDPP provided a scholarship for 5 individuals nominated by Kijiji Sisterhood to attend the online Certified Lactation Course (CLC). Kijiji Sisterhood members provide mentoring support to CLC scholars. During the past quarter Kijiji Sisterhood CLC scholars provided 2 free Community Sessions via Facebook. CLC scholars presented information and answered questions about topics including latching, community resources, etc. During the past quarter, they assisted 15 women through these sessions. Also, during June, CDPP staff presented on REACH-funded breastfeeding efforts in Southern Nevada during a joint presentation at the NACCHO annual conference via recorded video.

In June, CDPP staff planned and facilitated a 'Shop Talk' event at Masterpiece Barber School. The event was recorded and posted to YouTube. The event featured several panelists including a barbershop owner, a medical doctor, a nurse, and a physical fitness expert. The event was hosted by Wil Thomas, host of the Healthier Tomorrow radio program on KCEP. Congressman Horsford's office sent a video of the Congressman talking about the importance of heart disease and hypertension screening and awareness which was shown during the event. Over 25 people attended the event live, including barber college students. During the event, 12 people were also screened for hypertension. Also, in June,

CDPP staff wrapped up the 'With Every Heartbeat is Life' (WEHL) class at the MLK Senior Center. The WEHL class is an 11-session class designed for the African American community and addresses heart health. Eleven participants (class max) started the course in April, and 9 participants completed the course in June.

In June, CDPP staff facilitated a Diabetes Self-Management and Education Class at the Majid As-Sabur mosque. A total of 10 people (class max) attended the course, and 5 people completed the course. The mosque has asked staff to return in several months to teach another DSME Class. The CDPP class also received \$5,000 worth of incentives (gift cards, physical activity items, bus passes, etc.) to support recruitment and engagement of DSME class participants via the B.U.D.D.Y programs.

# B. Tobacco Control Program (TCP)

Promotion of an online youth virtual training module began in May. The goal of the virtual training is to increase awareness and prevent initiation of electronic vapor products and other emerging products. The training uses influential teens in a popular social media format (Tik-Tok style) to dispel the myths and provide truths around vaping. The virtual training will be available until September 2021. In June, 2,757 youth completed the training exceeding the goal of 500.

Staff continues to collaborate with statewide partners on finalizing the content for the tobacco and e-cigarette flavoring website for the Attracting Addiction media campaign. In June, staff launched the AttractingAddictionNV.com website in collaboration with WCHD and other state partners. The website is currently being translated into Spanish. The focus of the website and associated media campaign is to educate the public on flavored tobacco products and how they are used to attract the younger generation.

Staff continues to work with media design partner to create culturally competent educational materials for the African American smoking/vaping cessation and prevention initiative - Because We Matter. Staff worked with a media firm to launch a website placeholder and completed the first draft of website content. In June, educational materials about African American tobacco use were distributed to attendees of the Juneteenth Festival on June 19 and at the Clark County Jazz in the Park. Staff also partnered with Sigma Gamma Rho, a predominately African American sorority, to have our culturally appropriate videos that promote cessation play during their SN Nevada Neighborhood Award ceremony. Because We Matter will continue to have a presence in the African American community. Additionally, staff created a media campaign that promotes smoking/vaping cessation in the African American community. The media campaign will run on radio, TV, Print, Online and social ads. The campaign began in June 2021 and will run through September 2021. In June, media has resulted in over 1.3 million impressions.

This month staff participated in a Cannabis and Alcohol Resistance Education event hosted by CARE coalition. The event took place on June 9<sup>th</sup> at Shadow Hills Church. The event brought together faith-based community leaders, parents, public safety officials and youth to discuss the harms and risks associated with drug abuse. Staff promoted cessation and smoke-free living resources.

In June, five local businesses voluntarily expanded tobacco-free and vape free policy.

#### C. Other Efforts

OCDPHP has received additional funding from the CDC to support COVID-19 and flu vaccine education and delivery among our REACH grant priority populations (African Americans and Hispanics). OCDPHP staff are working with community partners to train influential messengers in the community, promote vaccine update and increase accessibility to vaccines among these populations.

#### In June:

- 1. Work continued on the needs assessment as well as preliminary media activities.
- 2. Sixteen influential messengers (promotoras and CHWs) were trained by SNHD staff and contractors.
- 3. Partners participated in several earned media activities including Facebook Live video events on 87.7 and 98.1 Fiesta radio stations. The estimated reach of both events was 5,000 people.
- 4. Partners participated in 2 health fairs providing education and referral. An estimated 140 people were reached at both events (estimated 80 African Americans; 60 Hispanic participants).

# II. OFFICE OF EMERGENCY MEDICAL SERVICES & TRAUMA SYSTEM (OEMSTS)

# A. Drug/Device/Protocol Committee (DDP)

The DDP Committee assists the OEMSTS, the Medical Advisory Board (MAB), and the QI Directors Committee in researching, developing, and editing new and existing protocols. Members include volunteer representatives from permitted agencies, receiving hospitals, and individuals involved with the training of EMS professionals.

The DDP continues its work on proposed revisions to the adult/pediatric cardiac arrest protocols based on current AHA guidelines. Also discussed was the clinical entity Cannibus Hyperemesis Syndrome, a condition that leads to repeated and severe bouts of vomiting which may occur in daily long-term users of marijuana.

#### B. Medical Advisory Board (MAB)

The primary mission of the MAB is to support the Health Officer's role to ensure quality patient care within the EMS system by making recommendations and assisting in the ongoing design, operation, and evaluation of the EMS system from initial patient access to definitive patient care. The members include: 1) One medical director of each firefighting/franchised agency; 2) One operational director of each firefighting/franchised agency; 3) Chairman of the Regional Trauma Advisory Board; and 4) An employee of the District whose duties relate to the administration and enforcement of EMS Regulations as an ex-officio member.

The Board discussed issues related to pediatric cardiac arrest resuscitation management and the use of Phenylephrine, a pure alpha agent. Reports were also given from the DDP and QI Directors Committees.

#### **COMMUNITY HEALTH – OEMSTS - Fiscal Year Data**

June EMS Statistics	June 2020	June 2021	
Total Certificates Issued	73	70	<b>+</b>
New Licenses Issued	61	61	=
Renewal Licenses Issued (recert only)	0	0	=
Driver Only	24	15	4
Active Certifications: EMT	769	760	4
Active Certifications: Advanced EMT	1632	1610	4
Active Certifications: Paramedic	1820	1771	4
Active Certifications: RN	57	64	1

#### III. OFFICE OF PUBLIC HEALTH PREPAREDNESS (OPHP)

#### A. Planning and Preparedness

- Following President Biden's directive, OPHP staff began working from home in support of the COVID-19 response. Manager, senior planners, trainers, MRC volunteer coordinator, analyst and administrative staff may be serving in their SNHD and/or ICS positions in support of both SNHD and/or the MACC/MSST for the Southern Nevada community and hospital needs.
- 2. Following SNHD leadership direction, all non-essential meetings have been postponed for staff to attend all essential COVID-19, SNHD, community partner, and hospital meetings.

#### B. PHP Training and PH Workforce Development

- 1. Following SNHD leadership direction, all non-essential training has been postponed focusing on the COVID-19 response and training needs.
- 2. Employee Fit Testing: Essential SNHD staff continue to receive respirator fit testing, 27 fit tests completed.

#### C. Hospital Preparedness Program (HPP)

- 1. 06 JUL HPP Liaison supported the Incident Commander's Tactics Meeting for Operational Period 68.
- 2. 08 JUL HPP Liaison provide Incident Command System Technical Assistance to a member of the health district assuming a new role in the response structure. HPP Liaison also attended the Cyber Awareness webinar on Conti Ransomware gleaning crucial cyber awareness information for the Healthcare Coalition members. HPP Liaison, as the Planning Section Chief, led the Planning Meeting for the Health District COVID-19 response efforts. Finally, the HPP Liaison participated in a series of interviews for a new Senior Public Health Preparedness Planner Public Health Emergency Program replacement in OPHP.
- 3. 12 JUL HPP Liaison led the Operational Period Brief for the SNHD ICS Team.

- 4. 13 JUL HPP Liaison participated in the COVID-19 Microplanning session with the State of Nevada's Health and Human Services to discuss budget issues, new hires supporting the response effort, and upcoming vaccination events. Also, the HPP Liaison, as the Planning Section Chief, participated in the SNHD ICS Tactics meeting as a support element.
- 5. 14 JUL HPP Liaison attended the Multi-Jurisdiction Improvised Explosive Device Security Planning Program workshop with the City of Las Vegas at City Hall in Las Vegas, Participants receive a briefing, questions, and discussed upcoming workshops. The group also determined that a fourth workshop focused on Fire, Emergency Medical Services, and Hospitals response to an improvised explosive device would be added to the group. The HPP Liaison volunteered to coordinate with hospital emergency managers for their invitation to the workshop. The Cybersecurity and Infrastructure Security Agency is the lead agency. Senior Public Health Preparedness Planner was invited to present at the National Homeland Security Conference in Las Vegas on 1 September 2021.
- 6. 15 JUL – HPP Liaison attended the San Martin Emergency Management Committee meeting providing updates on the current COVID-19 spike and affected age groups, developing partnership for a Table Top Exercise with the Veterans Affairs Emergency Management team for a National Disaster Medical System team in preparation for the Full-Scale Exercise in 2023, updated them on the Training and Exercise Planning Workshop in July, the Great Nevada ShakeOut in October 2021, The National Healthcare Coalition Preparedness Conference in November-December 2021, the Multi-Jurisdiction IED Workshop ~ Fire/EMS/HOSP in December 2021, the Radiation Response Annex validation Table-Top Exercise in February 2021, the Highly Infectious Disease Annex Table-Top Exercise in March 2022, and the Pediatric Disaster Response & Emergency Preparedness Course, MGT439 provided by Texas A&M Engineering Extension Services (TEEX) in April 2022. Also, HPP Liaison led the Planning Meeting for the SNHD Incident Command System Team for the COVID-19 response.
- 7. 19 JUL HPP Liaison led the Operational Period Brief for Ops Period 71, 19–26JUL2021. This briefing focused on the planning and execution of the operations identified and planned for by the SNHD Incident Command System for the COVID-19 response. Also, OPHP met with the State Division of Public and Behavioral Health to discuss ongoing COVID-19 response in Clark County.
- 8. 20 JUL HPP Liaison, as the Chair, Southern Nevada Healthcare Preparedness Coalition, was invited to participate in a Healthcare Coalition Engagement hosted by the Assistant Secretary for Preparedness and Response (ASPR)Technical Resources, Assistance Center, and Information Exchange (TRACIE). Moderated by a member of the TRACIE staff, the focus of the engagement was the role of healthcare coalitions in COVID-19 response.
- 9. 21 JUL OPHP attended and participate in a meeting with The Centers for Disease Control & Prevention do discuss Health and Human Services (HHS) Testing and Diagnostic Working Group (TDWG) and Nevada DHHS/DEM. This meeting aims to assist with strategic planning and provide an additional opportunity for the state to ask questions to the TDWG about resource support opportunities. Also, the OPHP team met with the Assistance Secretary for Preparedness & Response Administrator

- and the Regional Emergency Coordinator (REC), as an opportunity to meet the new REC.
- 22 JUL HPP Liaison, in their role as Planning Section Chief, led the planning meeting for the Southern Nevada Health District's Incident Command System (ICS) team coordinating the plan for the next operational period.
- 11. 26 JUL HPP Liaison led the Operational Period Brief for Ops Period 72, 26JUL–02AUG2021. This briefing focused on the planning and execution of the operations identified and planned for by the SNHD Incident Command System for the COVID-19 response.
- 12. 27 JUL HPP attended the bi-weekly microplanning session with the State of Nevada to discuss strategies to support upcoming testing and vaccination points of dispensing within southern Nevada. This was followed by the HPP Liaison, in their role as Planning Section Chief, attending and supporting the Operations Section Chief Tactics Meeting to support OP72 requirements and objectives.
- 13. 28 JUL HPP Liaison met with representatives conducting the Community Health Needs Assessment for Boulder City as a Community and Public Health Partner.
- 14. 29 JUL HPP Liaison, in their role as Planning Section Chief, led the planning meeting for the Southern Nevada Health District's Incident Command System (ICS) team coordinating the plan for the next operational period, OP73. This was followed by the HPP Senior Planner attending the State of Nevada's Training and Exercise Planning Workshop, providing input into the next Budget Period's training and exercise for both the health district and healthcare coalition.
- 15. 30 JUL HPP Liaison met with the Green Valley Surgery Center to discuss their inclusion in the healthcare coalition, emergency preparedness requirements of the Centers for Medicare & Medicaid on the surgical center, preparation of their Hazard Vulnerability Analysis, and training and exercise opportunities for them to participate in with the healthcare coalition.

#### D. Grants and Administration

OPHP staff are supporting SNHD and MACC/MSST COVID-19 response and logistical needs.

# E. Medical Reserve Corps (MRC) of Southern Nevada

The MRC coordinator works in conjunction with SNHD and community partners for volunteers needed for the COVID-19 response.

#### MRC Activities for June 2021:

In June, medical and non-medical volunteers were deployed to support COVID-19 vaccination site at the SNHD South Clinic (formerly the site of the non-congregate shelter) as medics and support personnel. Eighteen MRC Volunteers assisted a local hospital with a mass casualty exercise. Total "accepted" volunteers stand at about 598. MRC Coordinator recruited, vetted, assigned, and deployed volunteers to all sites. MRC Coordinator continues to recruit volunteers and participates in planning and operations meetings as available. MRC also attended monthly NACCHO MRC Workgroup and PPAG meetings. The table below summarizes volunteer hours served in June.

# MRC Volunteer Hours FY2021 COVID-19 Response and Non-emergency

Activity	April	May	June
COVID-19 VAX POD	1435.75	135	256
SNPHL	0	0	0
Food Handler Support	4	16	0
SNHD PIO	0	0	4.5
SNHD Records Q.A.	0	0	8
Hospital Exercise	0	0	63
Total Hours	1439.75	151	331.5
Economic Impact	\$59,416.41	\$5,326.30	\$12.641.76

### IV. VITAL RECORDS

#### A. Vital Statistics

July 2021 showed a 29% increase in birth certificate sales in comparison to July 2020. Death certificate sales showed a 1.8% increase for the same time frame. SNHD received revenues of \$46,852 for birth registrations, \$25,207 for death registrations; and an additional \$10,740 in miscellaneous fees. July 2021 showed an overall increase of 11.3% from July 2020.

#### **COMMUNITY HEALTH Vital Statistics Program – Fiscal Year Data**

	July	July		FY 20-21	FY 21-22	
Vital Statistics Services	2020	2021		(July)	(July)	
Births Registered	2,283	2,134	<b>→</b>	2,283	2,134	4
Deaths Registered	1,876	1,756	<b>→</b>	1,876	1,756	<b>+</b>
Fetal Deaths Registered (new to report)	10	26	<b></b>	10	26	<b>1</b>

# **COMMUNITY HEALTH Vital Statistics Program – Fiscal Year Data**

	July	July		FY 20-21	FY 21-22	
Vital Statistics Services	2020	2021		(July)	(July)	
Birth Certificates Sold (walk-in)	4	22	<b>1</b>	4	22	<b>1</b>
Birth Certificates Mail	100	134	<b>1</b>	100	134	个
Birth Certificates Online Orders	3,593	4,651	<b>1</b>	3,593	4,651	<b>1</b>
Birth Certificates Billed	103	87	$\mathbf{\Psi}$	103	87	Ψ
<b>Birth Certificates Number of Total Sales</b>	3,800	4,894	<b>1</b>	3,800	4,894	<b>1</b>
Death Certificates Sold (walk-in)	14	23	<b>1</b>	14	23	<b>1</b>
Death Certificates Mail	82	128	<b>1</b>	82	128	<b>1</b>
Death Certificates Online Orders	8,314	8,392	<b>1</b>	8,314	8,392	<b>1</b>
Death Certificates Billed	34	55	<b>1</b>	34	55	<b>1</b>
<b>Death Certificates Number of Total Sales</b>	8,444	8,598	<b>1</b>	8,444	8,598	<b>1</b>

# **COMMUNITY HEALTH Vital Statistics Program - Fiscal Year Data**

Vital Statistics Sales by Source	July 2020	July 2021		FY 20-21 (July)	FY 21-22 (July)	
Birth Certificates Sold Valley View (walk-in)	.1%	.4%	<b>↑</b>	.1%	.4%	<b>↑</b>
Birth Certificates Mail	2.6%	2.7%	<b>1</b>	2.6%	2.7%	<b>1</b>
Birth Certificates Online Orders	94.6%	95%	<b>↑</b>	94.6%	95%	<b>1</b>
Birth Certificates Billed	2.7%	1.8%	<b>4</b>	2.7%	1.8%	<b>\</b>
Death Certificates Sold Valley View (walk-in)	.2%	.3%	<b>1</b>	.2%	.3%	<b>1</b>
Death Certificates Mail	1%	1.5%	<b>1</b>	1%	1.5%	<b>1</b>
Death Certificates Online Orders	98.5%	97.6%	<b>→</b>	98.5%	97.6%	<b>+</b>
Death Certificates Billed	.4%	.6%	<b>↑</b>	.4%	.6%	<b>↑</b>

# **COMMUNITY HEALTH Vital Statistics Program – Fiscal Year Data**

	July	July		FY 20-21	FY 21-22	
Revenue	2020	2021		(July)	(July)	
Birth Certificates (\$25)	\$95,000	\$122,350	<b>1</b>	\$95,000	\$122,350	<b>1</b>
Death Certificates (\$25)	\$211,100	\$214,950	<b>1</b>	\$211,100	\$214,950	<b>1</b>
Births Registrations (\$13)	\$38,454	\$46,852	<b>↑</b>	\$38,454	\$46,852	<b>1</b>
Deaths Registrations (\$13)	\$24,754	\$25,207	<b></b>	\$24,754	\$25,207	<b>1</b>
Convenience Fee (\$2) new to report	\$7,566	\$9,648	<b>↑</b>	\$7,566	\$9,648	<b>1</b>
Miscellaneous Admin	\$535	\$1,092	<b>1</b>	\$535	\$1,092	<b>↑</b>
<b>Total Vital Records Revenue</b>	\$377,409	\$420,099	<b>1</b>	\$377,049	\$420,099	<b>1</b>

## **COMMUNITY HEALTH Passport Program – Fiscal Year Data**

#### B. Passport Services

Due to pandemic Passport Services moved to appointment only. Safety features for a full reopen are still in progress.

				FY	FY	
Revenue	July 2020	July 2021		20-21 (July)	21-22 (July)	
Passport Execution/Acceptance fee (\$35)	\$4,480	\$22,645	<b>1</b>	\$4,480	\$22,645	<b>1</b>
Passport Photo Fee (\$12)	Closed	\$0		Closed	\$0	
Total Passport Program Revenue	\$4,480	\$22,645	个	\$4,480	\$22,645	<b>↑</b>

# V. <u>HEALTH CARDS</u>

### A. Food Handling

- 1. Appointments
  - o Currently booked through August 31, 2021.
  - September 2021 appointments to be posted on Monday, August 2<sup>nd</sup>.
    On a daily basis, 516 appointments are available for both first time and renewing clients.
- 2. Audio test update
  - Both English and Spanish versions have been recorded. I.T. has loaded recordings into the system.
  - Testing both languages before rolling out in August.
- 3. Lake Cumberland District Health Department (Kentucky) On-line testing that includes facial recognition.
  - o Discovery completed and proposal drafted.
  - Costs being finalized.
    - Client cost.
      - One-time development costs.
  - If needed, can present to Leadership Team and/or Board of Health.

SERVICES	Jul 1 - 30	Jun 1 - 30	May 1 - 31	Apr 1 - 30
Food Handler Cards - New	1,270	1,071	879	768
Food Handler Cards - Renewals	3,708	4,512	3,897	2,413
Duplicates	210	271	264	160
CFSM (Manager) Cards	131	161	180	102
Re-Tests	442	407	273	103
Body Art Cards	113	151	174	133
TOTALS	5,874	6,573	5,667	3,679

REVENUE - Point of Sale	Jul 1 - 30	Jun 1 - 30	May 1 - 31	Apr 1 - 30
Food Handler Cards - New	\$25,400.00	\$21,420.00	\$17,580.00	\$15,340.00
Food Handler Cards - Renewals	\$74,160.00	\$90,240.00	\$77,940.00	\$48,260.00
Duplicates	\$4,200.00	\$5,420.00	\$5,280.00	\$3,200.00
CFSM (Manager) Cards	\$2,620.00	\$3,220.00	\$3,600.00	\$2,040.00
Re-Tests	\$2,210.00	\$2,035.00	\$1,365.00	\$515.00
Body Art Cards	\$2,260.00	\$3,020.00	\$3,480.00	\$2,660.00
Late Fee	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A

TOTALS \$110,850.00 \$125,355.00 \$109,245.00 \$72,015.00

#### B. COVID-19 Activities

## Oversight of door screeners

- Temporary staff member had to end assignment on Monday, July 26<sup>th</sup> due to family emergency. OEDS/EPI staff member covering through Friday, July 30<sup>th</sup> for continuity. New temporary to start on Monday, August 2<sup>nd</sup>.
- 2. Enforcing mask use for all clients vaccinated and unvaccinated per County mandate effective July 30<sup>th</sup>.

# VI. SOUTHERN NEVADA PUBLIC HEALTH LABORATORY (SNPHL)

#### A. Clinical Testing

SNPHL supports the SNHD Nursing Division with molecular and microbiology culture, Sexually Transmitted Disease (STD) testing. SNHD STD department and SNPHL cooperatively participate in the CDC Gonococcal Isolate Surveillance Project (GISP) as well as enhanced Gonococcal Isolate Surveillance Project (eGISP). SNPHL performs *N. gonorrhoeae* culture and submits isolates to CDC and Nursing provides the client information required by the project.

Test Name	Monthly Count	Avg Year to Date
GC Cultures	47	54
NAAT NG/CT	986	994
Syphilis	438	454
RPR/RPR Titers	71/127	103/110
Hepatitis Total	209	324
HIV/differentiated	325/7	370/11
HIV RNA	35	34

SNPHL testing helps meet SNHD Mission to affect individual patient care and enhance population surveillance efforts to identify/reduce disease transmission in Clark County. SNPHL continues to perform COVID-19 PCR tests. SARS-Cov-2 PCR extraction is currently performed on the King Fisher Flex, BGI/MGI or QiaCube platforms. COVID-19-19 PCR extraction/direct specimen are interpreted on either the BioFire, Hologic Panther, 7500Fast or QuantStudio-Dx or QuantStudio-5. Proprietary reagents/supplies have improved to a new post-outbreak normal. The SNPHL goal is to maintain capacity of 1000-1500 tests/day) with turn-around-time of <48 hours (TAT 2Day- currently at/near goal). For July,

the average capacity for July was 1044 and average turnaround time 1.22 days. 1). Additional staffing to run 2-10hr shifts/day 5d/wk plus one shift on Saturdays, [hiring and interviews ongoing] 2). IT to create easy patient accession and direct report verification from SNPHL LIS into SNHD patient report portal, [ongoing, CCDC now on-line] 3). Automation of specimen fluid handling, [equipment in house, pending validation/training] 4). Sample pooling scheme for reagent cost effectiveness.

COVID-19	# PCR/#POS	COVID-19	# PCR/#POS
January	15,626/1802	July	28,334/3215
February	10,477/502	August	
March	12, 605/302	September	
April	11,346/476	October	
May	12,268/429	November	
June	13,881/661	December	

Missing clinical testing of reportable disease-causing organisms for all of microbiology.

SNPHL continues to perform routine testing of reportable disease specimens submitted to SNPHL. Campylobacter spp., Salmonella spp., Shigella spp., STEC, Vibrio spp., and Listeria spp. are all routinely sequenced by Whole Genome Sequencing as part of local and national public health surveillance effort in conjunction with CDC PulseNet. Local matches, if any, of isolates are reported to OEDS on a weekly basis to aid in disease investigation, and SNPHL and OEDS coordinate with CDC PulseNet, if required.

	2021	Jan	Feb	Mar	April	May	June	July
Communication	Campy ID	7	6	13	4	14	19	10
Campylobacter	Campy Screen	9	7	21	9	19	25	15
	Gonorrhoeae Culture	42	59	82	55	40	49	47
Neisseria species	Gram Stain/WBC	0	0	0	5	0	2	0
species	Neisseria ID	2	1	9	1	1	6	2
	Haemophilus ID	1	0	4	0	0	3	3
Unknown ID	Bacterial ID	5	0	5	3	0	9	5
	WGS (PulseNet)	15	26	27	25	45	62	27
Calmananalla	Salmonella Screen	8	17	22	10	24	19	13
Salmonella	Salmonella Serotype	8	13	21	10	18	20	11
Chicalla	Shigella Screen	1	8	7	8	7	12	7
Shigella	Shigella Serotype	0	5	2	5	4	6	3
STEC	STEC Screen	0	1	1	2	3	17	8
STEC	STEC Serotype	0	1	1	1	1	16	2
Unknown	Stool Culture	0	5	0	11	0	5	0
A file at a	Vibrio ID	0	0	3	0	0	1	1
Vibrio	Vibrio Screen	0	0	3	0	0	5	3
	Yersinia Culture/ID	0	1	1	2	2	2	0

# B. Epidemiological Testing and Consultation

- SNPHL cooperative/collaboration testing supports the investigation activity of SNHD OEDS and Nursing Division to identify close contacts at risk for SARS-COVID-19 infection to rapidly activate mitigation/quarantine behavior and reduce disease transmission. Improvements in the SNHD patient result portal connection to the SNPHL report laboratory information system has helped accession input of patient data with subsequent improved report result turn-around time.
- 2. SNPHL rolled out a new ticketing system for SNHD Epi to submit testing requests for their investigations and surveillance.
- 3. SNPHL participates in the SNHD Outbreak Investigation Committee and Foodborne Illness Taskforce. Conducted 3 outbreak investigations in March.
- 4. SNPHL continues to report results of influenza testing to the CDC National Respiratory and Enteric Virus Surveillance System (NREVSS). SNPHL performed in February #39 respiratory panels on the BioFire array and Flu #0 screening.
- 5. SNPHL cooperates with OEDS in testing of samples from sensitive cases and coordinating with various agencies for reportable diseases to refer samples for appropriate testing, as needed.

# C. State Branch Public Health Laboratory Testing

- SNPHL performs reportable disease isolate testing and confirmation. Isolates submitted by local laboratories are serotyped and/or confirmed by Whole Genome Sequencing; stored on-site; and results reported and/or samples submitted to CDC through various national programs; Public Health Laboratory Information System (PHLIS), National Antimicrobial Resistance Monitoring System (NARMS), and Influenza Surveillance, and PulseNet Bacterial Outbreak Surveillance
- SNPHL's additional mission is as a member of the CDC Laboratory Response Network (LRN) testing for identification of potential biological weapons/agents on environmental daily samples within its unique BSL3 environment.

2021	Jan	Feb	Mar	April	May	June	July
Select Agent Rule Out (total PCR)	0	2	3	8	2	1	0

3. SNPHL is clinically validated for the identification of Campylobacter species (select species), pathogenic Escherichia coli, and Salmonella species, and for DNA-based identification of Salmonella serotypes. SNPHL performed #27 Whole Genome Sequencing tests (WGS) as part of PulseNet in July 2021. SNPHL is working on expanding to DNA-based typing of STEC (Shiga toxin-producing E. coli) to improve workflow and turnaround time of reporting, as was done for Salmonella in April 2020. SNPHL plans to expand WGS-identification of the remaining PulseNet bacteria (Vibrio spp. and Listeria spp.). Future plans include using WGS-based identification of non-PulseNet pathogens as well in an effort to modernize microbiology. SNPHL plans to improve data analysis and data flow to improve current methods of data input and data sharing with OEDS.

- 4. SNPHL is in the process of validating the Bruker MALDI-ToF instrument for streamlined screening of bacterial isolates, to decrease turnaround time and modernize microbiological identification methods.
- 5. SNPHL is validated for sequencing SARS-CoV-2 and identifying variants of interest through the identification of lineages and clades as of mid-March SNPHL has sustained capacity of sequencing #24 SARS-CoV-2positive RNA extracts per week with expectations of increasing this capacity with appropriate staffing and method development. As of July 2021, SNPHL has sequenced 638 SARS-CoV-2-positive RNA extracts. Sequence data for each sample is routinely uploaded to the international GISAID database to contribute to global efforts of understanding SARS-CoV-2. Additional staff should enable capacity to double for sequencing. Grant requests have been submitted for additional equipment and automation to be able to sequence all SARS-CoV-2 positive tests in the District. Currently, SNPHL works in collaboration with NSPHL in Reno and UNLV School of Medicine for overflow sequencing needs beyond current capacity. In the future, SNPHL plans to perform sequencing validation of other respiratory pathogens.
- 6. SNPHL coordinates and participates with Environmental Health and Veritas Labs for Legionella surveillance.

2021	Jan	Feb	Mar	April	May	June	July
Legionella	0	1	1	1	11	1	0

- 7. SNPHL provides vector testing for Environmental Services; testing for Zika, West Nile, Western/Eastern Equine Encephalitis. Our facility hosted a CDC demonstration for the Vector team.
- 8. SNPHL is maintaining dedicated courier services 6d/wk to SNHD public health centers, CCDC and Southern Nevada hospital/commercial laboratories.

#### D. All-Hazards Preparedness

- SNPHL provides/assists testing for SNHD COVID-19 Emergency Incident Response, local community outreach, CCDC jail-detention centers, institutions of higher education and long-term nursing facilities Rapid-Antigen POC (CDC-EUA: Abbott IDNow; Qiagen Sofia; BD Vector) with outbreak confirmation RT-PCR testing supported by SNPHL.
- 2. SNPHL continues to expand testing for COVID-19 by looking into different testing methods, new vendors and new supply chain pathways, as well as improving existing workflows
- 3. SNPHL participates on a multitude of conference calls with CDC; NV State and SNHD OPHP, local First Responders and sentinel laboratories (as well as 3x/wk with SNHD ICS) to ensure SNPHL response to possible biological or chemical agents and COVID-19 for the collection/reporting of correct test samples.
- 4. SNPHL staff continue on-going training of LRN protocols for biological agent confirmation and participate frequently in proficiency/competency surveys.
- 5. SNPHL currently has technical laboratory staff (#35 + 6 NG volunteers) trained and on-call to respond for emergency testing 24 hours per day/7

- days per week. SNPHL routine service hours have expanded to 0600-2200 and Saturday (0800-1600) with limited staff.
- 6. SNPHL has worked with the National Guard to phase the draw-down of their forces. They will draw down 1 Guard member per month for June, July, and August with the final 3 leaving on September 2021.
- 7. SNPHL coordinates with training/exercises for First Responders including local Civil Support Team, HazMat, Federal Bureau of Investigation, and Las Vegas Metropolitan Police Department.
- 8. SNPHL provides information to local laboratorians on CDC packaging and shipping infectious substances and on chain of custody procedures.

# E. July 2021 SNPHL Activity Highlights

- Laboratory staff continue universal precautions; daily symptoms screen, hand washing, protective garments and social distancing despite vigilance fatigue/after 12+ months of pandemic. The vast majority of training is now obtained from on-line opportunities.
- 2. Continue Influenza Surveillance with OEDS, interact on community communication message.
- 3. SNPHL has a stable FEMA supply of Viral Transport Medium (VTM) used in COVID-19 collection kits.
- 4. SNPHL works closely with Information Technology, OEDS departments and local community partners on the 2019 novel Coronavirus outbreak to perform on-site patient/specimen accession (into SNHD EMR) and to provide accurate rapid test results via the SNHD patient portal. SNPHL now has two on-site informaticians.
- SNPHL continues to work with multiple distributors and manufacturers for COVID-19 testing supplies and consumables. There continues to be a shortage of various supplies and SNPHL is on allocation for specific reagents and consumables.
- 6. Lab Space Build-out: Total re-model into downstairs warehouse build out area is being explored, with different options examined. Construction completion date is planned for 1/31/2022.
- 7. The laboratory manager position was vacated on March 12, 2021. Dr. Kan is working with OD for the optimal structure for SNPHL and may adjust positions and tasking for better workflow and efficiency.
- 8. The laboratory received one KingFisher extractor and will add it into the COVID-19 PCR testing in August. The other KingFisher extractor is under the purchasing process now.
- COVID-19 whole genome sequencing data from SNPHL has successfully uploaded into the State sequencing database, TERRA. Laboratory also submitted a total number of 1,613 positive COVID-19 samples to NSPHL for sequencing.

#### **COMMUNITY HEALTH - SNPHL - Calendar Year Data**

SNPHL Services	YTD July 2020	YTD July 2021	
Clinical Testing Services <sup>1</sup>	3183	2578	<b>+</b>
Epidemiology Services <sup>2</sup>	142	182	<b>↑</b>
State Branch Public Health Laboratory Services <sup>3</sup>	26631	28334	<b>↑</b>
All-Hazards Preparedness Services <sup>4</sup>	148	5	<b>\</b>
Environmental Health Services 5	0	231	1

- <sup>1.</sup> Includes N. Gonorrhoeae culture, GISP isolates, Syphilis, HIV, CT/GC molecular, Gram stain testing and COVID-19 Ab immunologic tests.
- <sup>2.</sup> Includes Stool culture, EIA, Norovirus PCR, Respiratory Pathogen PCR, Epidemiological investigations, or consultations.
- 3. Includes COVID-19 PCR, WGS and LRN testing, proficiency samples, reporting to CDC, courier services, infectious substance shipments, teleconferences, trainings, presentations and inspections, samples submitted to CDC or other laboratories' submissions.
- <sup>4.</sup> Includes Preparedness training, teleconferences, inspections.
- <sup>5.</sup> Includes vector testing.