



DATE: September 23, 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 of September 16, a total of 2,432,316 doses of COVID-19 vaccine have been administered in Clark County. The total number of vaccinations initiated is 1,397,941; the number of vaccinations completed is 1,141,912, and the number of people fully vaccinated is 1,058,157. The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) considers people to be fully vaccinated two weeks after their second dose in a two-dose series (Moderna or Pfizer), or two weeks after a single-dose vaccine (Johnson & Johnson). More than 74 percent of adults age 18 and older have initiated vaccination, and more than 69 percent of those eligible (people 12 and over) have initiated vaccination. Approximately 61 percent of adults age 18 and older, and approximately 56 percent of those eligible 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 September 16, there have been reports of 9,080 fully vaccinated individuals testing positive for COVID-19. This represents about 86 cases out of every 10,000 fully vaccinated people. The Health District is reporting a total of 137 deaths have occurred in fully vaccinated Clark County residents. This represents 1 death out of every 10,000 fully vaccinated people. By comparison, the case rate is 50 deaths per 10,000 unvaccinated people. The report is also available on the data section of the Health District's website.

On Thursday, September 9, President Biden announced his COVID-19 Action Plan. The plan outlined a national strategy that is designed to employ a science-based approach to continue to respond to the pandemic by increasing vaccination rates, keeping schools open and additional mitigation, public health and health care strategies. One of the requirements of the plan is that health care workers at Medicare and Medicaid participating hospitals and other health care settings must require vaccinations for their employees. This requirement applies to all employees of these facilities, including staff not involved in direct clinical care.

The full plan is available at <https://www.whitehouse.gov/covidplan/>.

The Health District is currently offering third doses of the vaccine to immunocompromised people in accordance with Centers for Disease Control and Prevention guidance. Third doses of Pfizer or Moderna are available to individuals with moderated to severely compromised immune systems and can be administered at least 28 days after second doses have been received. Patients are advised to talk to their health care providers about their medical

condition about whether getting an additional dose is appropriate for them. At this time, there is no recommendation for additional doses for people who received the Johnson & Johnson vaccine.

The U.S. Department of Health and Human Services announced a plan to begin offering COVID-19 vaccine booster shots by September 20. The FDA will need to authorize the vaccine booster shots, and the CDC's Advisory Committee on Immunization Practices will make the final recommendations on the use of boosters for the public. The Health District will follow the guidance issued by the CDC for administering booster shots to the public.

At this time, the Health District's focus continues to be on administering first and second doses of the COVID-19 vaccine to the public.

West Nile Virus

On September 2, the Health District reported that mosquitoes trapped by its Mosquito Surveillance Program in the 89014 ZIP code tested positive for West Nile virus, the first this season in Clark County. The presence of West Nile virus-positive mosquitoes serves as a reminder that people need to protect themselves from mosquito bites when they are outdoors. Since that time, additional West Nile virus-positive mosquitoes have been detected in the 89052 ZIP code.

Each year, the Health District urges people to "Fight the Bite" by taking these simple steps:

Eliminate standing water. Tip and toss water that may accumulate in items around the home, including in planters, buckets, tires, and anywhere water may collect. Maintain swimming pools and check yards for areas of sprinkler run-off. Even a small amount of standing water can support mosquito breeding.

Prevent mosquito bites. Use an Environmental Protection Agency (EPA)-registered insect repellent containing DEET, Picaridin, IR3535, Oil of lemon eucalyptus (OLE), or 2-undecanone. Wear pants and long-sleeved shirts to reduce mosquito exposure when outdoors.

Report mosquito activity. Call the Health District's Mosquito Surveillance Program at (702) 759-1633 to make a report. To report a green pool, people should contact their local code enforcement agency. More resources and contact information are available on the Health District's [website](#).

Mosquito activity has been mild in Southern Nevada this season, and last year only one case of West Nile virus was reported in a Clark County resident. However, it is important to remember that West Nile virus and other diseases transmitted by mosquitoes can be serious and sometimes fatal. In 2019, the Health District reported 34 neuroinvasive West Nile cases, including two deaths, and nine non-neuroinvasive cases.

West Nile virus is commonly transmitted to people from the bite of an infected mosquito. Most people (eight out of 10) will not develop any symptoms. Some people (about one in five) will develop less severe illness. Their symptoms can include a fever, body aches, nausea, vomiting, and skin rash. Serious and every life-threatening illness can occur in some

individuals. About one in 150 people infected with West Nile virus develop the more severe, neuroinvasive form of the illness. More information about West Nile virus is available on the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention's website at www.cdc.gov/westnile/index.html.

The Health District's Mosquito Surveillance Program staff sets traps throughout Clark County from April through October each year and submits specimens to the Southern Nevada Public Health Laboratory for analysis.

Arbovirus reports and updates are available on the Health District's website at www.southernnevadahealthdistrict.org/programs/mosquito-surveillance/weekly-arbovirus-update/. More information about West Nile virus and the Health District's Mosquito Surveillance program is available at www.southernnevadahealthdistrict.org/programs/mosquito-surveillance/.

Flu Clinics

The Health District began offering flu vaccine at its public health centers on Tuesday, September 14. While the 2020-21 flu season was mild, likely due to COVID-19 mitigation measures such as mask-wearing, more people working and going to school from home, and social distancing, it is possible the 2021-2022 influenza season could be more active since many of these activities have decreased as businesses and schools have reopened.

During the 2020-2021 season, as of May 15, 2021, the Health District received reports of 50 influenza-associated hospitalizations and six deaths associated with flu. During the 2019-2020 season, as of May 16, 2020, the Health District had received reports of 1,398 influenza-associated hospitalizations and 54 deaths.

The flu vaccine is available to walk-in clients at the Health District's 280 S. Decatur Blvd. immunization clinic, but appointments are required at its other public health centers. Appointments can be made by calling (702) 759-0850.

The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) estimated that flu vaccine prevented an estimated 7.5 million illnesses and 6,300 deaths during the 2019-2020 flu season. For more information about the burden of influenza, visit the CDC's <https://www.cdc.gov/flu/about/burden-averted/2019-2020.htm>

The Health District will continue working to increase the number of people vaccinated against flu this season along with continuing to promote COVID-19 vaccinations, and health and safety measures. Health District flu clinic locations are available at www.snhd.info/flu.

Community Meetings

Week ending 08/29:

Weekly Meetings:

- Participated in the CDC COVID-19 All State, Tribal, Local, and Territorial Update call
- Participated in a Hospital CEO Medical Surge Update call

Bi-weekly (twice weekly):

- Participated in a meeting with Commissioner Kirkpatrick and representatives from CCSD on COVID-19 related issues

Monthly:

- Participated in individual Board of Health Agenda Review meetings with Councilwoman Dutkowski, Councilwoman Diaz, Councilman Adams, and Scott Nielson
- Participated in the Southern Nevada Community Health Center Governing Board Agenda Review meeting with Councilman Knudsen and Tim Burch
- Participated in the Southern Nevada District Board of Health meeting
- Participated in the Southern Nevada Community Health Center Governing Board meeting

Media/Interviews/Panelist/Presenter:

- Interview with Kyle Wilcox (KSNV-TV 3) about the FDA approval of Pfizer vaccine
- Interview with Alejandra Ochoa (Univision) about the FDA approval of Pfizer vaccine (Spanish language)
- Interview with Ashley Casper (KVVU-TV 5/FOX5) about the FDA approval of Pfizer vaccine
- Panelist at the News 3 Town Hall about the misconceptions about COVID and the vaccine

Professional Development/Conferences:

- Attended the CDC Vaccine Confidence Bootcamp on Rapid Community Assessment (RCA) webinar
- Attended the “Upstream Approaches” to Build Resiliency: Organizational and Leadership Strategies webinar

Ad-hoc Meetings:

- Participated in the Clark County COVID-19 Regional Policy Meeting
- Participated in a COVID Response meeting with representatives from the local health authorities facilitated by DHHS

Week ending 08/22:

Weekly Meetings:

- Participated in the CDC COVID-19 All State, Tribal, Local, and Territorial Update call
- Participated in a meeting with Commissioner Kirkpatrick and representatives from CCSD on COVID-19 related issues
- Participated in a Hospital CEO Medical Surge Update call
- Participated in the CDC COVID-19 Related Response Strategies meeting
- Participated in the COVID weekly meeting with Commissioner Kirkpatrick and representatives of the resort industry

Monthly:

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

Media/Interviews/Panelist/Presenter:

- Panelist at the Tele-Town Hall (Spanish language) hosted by Senator Cortez Masto
- Interview with Samuel Toledo (Telemundo) about the continued importance of getting vaccinated (Spanish language)
- Interview with Rosana Romero (KLAV-AM/Planticados con Rosana) about fentanyl overdose increases in Clark County (Spanish language)

Professional Development/Conferences:

- Attended the Additional mRNA COVID-19 Vaccines for Moderately to Severely Immunocompromised People webinar facilitated by the CDC
- Attended the CDC Federal Snapshot: K-12 Guidance Update webinar
- Attended the White House Virtual Conversation on Health Systems, Providers, and the COVID-19 Vaccinations Effort webinar

Ad-hoc Meetings:

- Attended the Building Effective Messages and Vaccine Confidence for COVID-19 Vaccinations: Best Practices & Lessons Learned webinar facilitated by the HHS and CDC
- Attended the Nevada Primary Care Association (NVPCA) Site Visit Showcase
- Facilitated a meeting with various stakeholders on several Health District public health projects to discuss coordination efforts
- Along with Councilman Black and Councilman Knudsen, received the WWE Community Champion recognition presented to SNHD for the work supporting communities during the 2020 COVID-19 pandemic and afterwards
- Participated in three (3) meetings with Commissioner Kirkpatrick and CCSD principals regarding COVID-19 mitigation strategies and protocols

Week ending 08/15:

Weekly Meetings:

- Participated in the CDC COVID-19 All State, Tribal, Local, and Territorial Update call
- Participated in a Hospital CEO Medical Surge Update 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 the BCHC Monthly Member call

Media/Interviews/Panelist/Presenter:

- Presented the opening remarks at the HIMSS Global Public Policy Welcome Dinner
- Panelist at the Clark County Virtual Town Hall – COVID Conversations

Professional Development/Conferences:

- Attended the HIMSS21 Opening Keynote – Preserving the Health of a Population – Early Lessons from a Global Pandemic
- Attended the HIMSS21 Session – Answering the Call: The Importance of Interoperability Across the Spectrum in the Ages of COVID-19 and Beyond
- Attended the HIMSS21 Learning Lab: Defining the Role of Health IT Modernization in Post-Pandemic Smart Communities-Cities Initiatives
- Attended the HIMSS21 Community Tour of Interoperability Showcase Demonstrations on (i) Journey of COVID-19 Vaccinations, (ii) Health Surveillance for Pandemic Response, and (iii) The Health Hospital
- Attended the HIMSS21 Session – Making IT Boring Again – Priorities, Progress and Pandemics
- Attended the HIMSS21 Session – COVID-19: U.S. Federal and State Responses and Lessons Learned
- Attended the HIMSS21 Keynote: Encouraging the Science of Happiness - An Experiment in Gratitude

Ad-hoc Meetings:

- Participated in the Spanish Planning Committee meeting
- Attended the CDC's COVID-19 Response STLT Support Task Force Conversation with CDC re: considerations for additional doses of COVID-19 vaccine
- Participated in an introductory meeting with Ameeth Deenanath from CitiusTech
- Viewed the CDC COVID-19 Community of Practice (CoP) webinar on Mental Health in K – 12 Children Prior to and During the COVID-19 Pandemic
- Viewed the CDC COVID-19 Community of Practice (CoP) webinar on best practices for improving staff vaccination rates in long term and other congregate living facilities
- Viewed the CDC COVID-19 Community of Practice (CoP) webinar focuses on the newly revised ELC Reopening Schools guidance and highlighting other ELC COVID-19 funds that may be used to support K-12 activities
- Participated in the CDC COVID-19 Partner Update: Vaccine Safety call
- Participated in the Immunize Nevada Speaker/Moderator Training in preparation for the Spanish Tele-Town Hall on August 17, 2021

Week ending 08/06:

Weekly Meetings:

- Participated in the CDC COVID-19 All State, Tribal, Local, and Territorial Update call
- Participated in a Hospital CEO Medical Surge Update call
- Participated in the CDC COVID-19 Related Response Strategies meeting
- Participated in the COVID weekly meeting with Commissioner Kirkpatrick and representatives of the resort industry

Media/Interviews/Panelist/Presenter:

- Panelist on Christian Radio station facilitated by Las Vegas Heals about COVID-19 (Spanish language)
- Interview with Samuel Toledo (Telemundo) about a COVID-19 Update

- Interview with Jaclyn Schultz (KVVU-TV) about the COVID 19 testing and vaccination demands
- Interview with Cecia Alvarado (Mi Familia Vota) about COVID-19 (Spanish language)
- Interview with Adriana Arevalo (Voice of America) about COVID-19 (Spanish language)
- Interview with Ruben Kihuen (98.1FM and 87.7FM) about COVID-19 (Spanish language)

Ad-hoc Meetings:

- Participated in the Regional Policy meeting
- Meeting with Dr. Greer, Dr. Brewster and Dr. Esposito regarding the Empower Program and collaboration between Roseman University School of Medicine and SNHD
- Meeting with Alana Lerer and Eli Fleet regarding the HIMSS21 Conference
- Canarelli Middle School Site Visit with Congressman Susie Lee and Dr. Jesus Jara