



**DATE:** November 18, 2021

**TO:** Southern Nevada District Board of Health Members

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

**SUBJECT:** District Health Officer Report

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Coronavirus Disease 2019 (COVID-19) – Pediatric Doses

Following the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention’s (CDC) recommendations, the Southern Nevada Health District began administering Pfizer’s pediatric COVID-19 vaccine to children ages 5 to 11 on Wednesday, November 10, at its main public health center at [280 S. Decatur, Las Vegas, NV, 89107](#) and community clinics.

The Health District is encouraging parents and guardians to get their eligible children vaccinated and providing information that the COVID-19 vaccine is the best way to protect children from getting COVID-19. Children may be at lower risk than adults of becoming seriously ill, but it is still possible. The vaccine is safe, effective and free. Before it was authorized for children, it was rigorously tested and the data from clinical trials were thoroughly reviewed.

In Clark County, approximately 209,000 children ages 5-11 are now eligible to receive the COVID-19 vaccine. More than 37,00 cases of COVID-19 in Clark County have been reported in children ages 5 to 17. Children with COVID-19 can develop severe symptoms that result in hospitalizations, death, MIS-C and long-term complications. The Health District has reported 92 cases of MIS-C among Clark County children. There have been more than 260 hospitalizations of children ages 5 to 17 and four deaths in this age group. Vaccines also help to protect those who are too young to receive the vaccine. There have been 7,500 cases of COVID-19 reported in children ages 4 or younger, more than 150 hospitalizations, and one death.

Parents getting their children vaccinated is an important step towards protecting the health of their children, the health of their families, and the health of their communities. Parents who have questions about the vaccine are encouraged to speak with their health care provider to learn more about the vaccine and the importance of getting their child vaccinated.

COVID-19 resources and information, including testing locations, are available on the Health District website at [www.snhd.info/covid](http://www.snhd.info/covid).

### Coronavirus Disease 2019 (COVID-19) – Booster Doses

The Southern Nevada Health District is urging all eligible people to get a booster dose of the COVID-19 vaccine. Booster doses of Johnson & Johnson, Moderns and Pfizer are now available at Health District clinic [locations](#).

For people who received the Moderna or Pfizer vaccine, the following groups are eligible for a booster at 6 months or more after they received their second dose:

- 65 years and older
- 18 and older who live in long-term care settings
- 18 and older who have [underlying medical conditions](#), which include but are not limited to: cancer, chronic heart, lung and kidney diseases, dementia, diabetes, down syndrome, HIV, overweight and obesity, pregnancy, organ transplants, and stroke.
- 18 and older who work or live in high-risk settings, including health care workers and frontline essential workers. A complete list of eligible occupations is available on the Health District [website](#).

For people who receive the Johnson & Johnson vaccine, booster doses are recommended for those who were vaccinated two or more months ago, regardless of age or other underlying risk factors.

The Health District continues to stress that the COVID-19 vaccines are highly effective at protecting people from severe illness, hospitalizations and death. However, because the protection offered by the vaccines may wane over time, it is important that everyone, especially people who are more vulnerable to developing complications, get a booster dose. People can get the booster dose with the same vaccine as they initially received or with a different vaccine. An additional dose is also recommended for people with moderate to severely compromised immune systems. This additional dose can be administered 28 days after their second dose of the Pfizer or Moderna vaccine has been received. Individuals who receive this additional dose should get the same vaccine they initially received.

### Coronavirus Disease 2019 (COVID-19) Update

As of November 8, a total of 2,714,802 doses of COVID-19 vaccine have been administered in Clark County.

- Total Doses Reported Initiated: 1,461,340
  - Overall: 63.04%
  - 18 years and older: 77.22%
  - 12 years and older: 72.12%
- Total Doses Reported Completed: 1,222,209
  - Overall: 52.72%
  - 18 years and older: 65.07%
  - 12 years and older: 60.10%

As of November 4, the Health District is reporting the following variants being monitored in Clark County:

<b>Variants Being Monitored</b>	<b>Count</b>	<b>Percent</b>
Alpha	946	59.9
Beta	9	0.6
Epsilon	227	14.4
Gamma	230	14.6
Eta	0	0.0
Iota	72	4.6
Kappa	0	0.0
Lambda	5	0.3
Mu	91	5.8
<b>Total</b>	<b>1580</b>	<b>100.0</b>

As of November 4, the Health District is reporting the following variants of concern (VOC) in Clark County:

<b>Variant of Concern</b>	<b>Count</b>	<b>Percent</b>
Delta	6421	97.9
Delta Plus	136	2.1
<b>Total</b>	<b>6557</b>	<b>100</b>

In the 30 days prior to November 4, the Health District identified the following variants in Clark County:

<b>Variant (Past 30 days)</b>	<b>Count</b>	<b>Percent</b>
Alpha	0	0.0
Beta	0	0.0
Delta	218	93.6
Delta Plus	15	6.4
Epsilon	0	0.0
Gamma	0	0.0
<b>Total</b>	<b>233</b>	<b>100</b>

#### Community Health Improvement Plan

In October, nearly 100 community members gathered at a Community Health Assessment Prioritization meeting to ask, “What are the most pressing public health issues facing Clark County?” The meeting was a continuation of Southern Nevada Health District and partner efforts to identify strategic priorities for the Community Health Improvement Plan (CHIP), a guide for public health activities and interventions through the next three years.

The CHIP is the second step in a process that began with the [2020-2021 Community Health Assessment \(CHA\)](#). The CHA was released in August 2021 and is designed to inform the public, stakeholders and organizations about the current health status of Clark County residents and provide guidance for making shared decisions for improving the public health

status of the community. During the prioritization meeting held on October 22, stakeholders used the findings from the CHA and identified four priorities that will be the focus of the Community Health Improvement Plan (CHIP).

The priorities were determined by ranking and measuring the seriousness of each issue's burden to the community as well as how many people are impacted directly or indirectly, and the cost to the community and the economy. The four priority areas are:

- **Access to Health Care:** Access to affordable, quality health care is an important element to physical, social and mental health. Insurance coverage, systemic racism and health disparities, lack of access or poor quality of health care, lack of providers and lack of reliable transportation were identified as impacting members of the community.
- **Chronic Disease:** Approximately six in 10 adults in the United States have a chronic disease, and four in 10 have two or more. Chronic disease is a condition lasting longer than a year or more and requires ongoing medical attention, limited activities of daily living or both. Social determinants of health, such as safe housing; job opportunities; discrimination and violence; language and literacy skills have an impact on the prevalence of chronic diseases in the community.
- **Funding:** Just 3 percent of health care dollars in the United States are spent on preventing disease and 75 percent of health care costs are related to preventable conditions. A high unemployment rate, high health care and transportation costs, limited public health funding, and lack of education funding have been identified as funding focus areas.
- **Transportation:** Reliable access to transportation can increase employment rates, access to healthy foods, access to health care providers and facilities, and access to parks and recreation for a healthy lifestyle. Approximately 8.4 percent of Clark County households do not have a vehicle. The assessment identified the high cost of transportation, accessibility to transportation and an insufficient utilization of transportation funding as areas to address.

The CHIP is a collaboration between government agencies, health care providers, non-profit organizations, and academia. The Health District welcomes individuals who would like to participate in the CHIP committee. Interested individuals or organizations can contact Carmen Hua at [huac@snhd.org](mailto:huac@snhd.org) for more information.

### American Diabetes Month

In Clark County, approximately 11 percent of adults have been diagnosed with diabetes, one of the most prevalent diseases in the United States. According to the CDC, more than 34 million people in the United States have diabetes. Each November, American Diabetes Month is an opportunity to remind people who are living with diabetes as well as those at risk of developing it that there are options available to protect their health.

The American Diabetes Association estimates that about 70,000 Nevadans have diabetes but don't know it, which increases their additional health risks, and approximately 16,000

people in the state are diagnosed with the disease each year. Diabetes is the seventh leading cause of death in the United States, and it is the leading cause of kidney failure, lower limb amputations, and blindness. People with diabetes are also at a higher risk of developing more severe illness with influenza and COVID-19.

As part of its commemoration of American Diabetes Month, the Southern Nevada Health District participated in the Día de los Muertos Festival on November 1 and November 2 at Freedom Park, 850 N. Mojave Rd., Las Vegas 89101. Free health screenings were available including diabetes, cholesterol, HIV and STD testing.

The Southern Nevada Health District's Office of Chronic Disease Prevention and Health Promotion also offers free resources, diabetes self-management classes, and a six-session Road to Diabetes Prevention program throughout the year. Programs and resources are available in English and Spanish and are accessible on the [Get Healthy Clark County](#) or [Viva Saludable](#) websites or by calling, (702) 759-1270.

### Community Meetings

#### **Week ending 10/31:**

##### 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 a COVID Response meeting with representatives from the local health authorities facilitated by DHHS

##### Monthly:

- Participated in the individual Southern Nevada District Board of Health Agenda Review meetings with Councilwoman Diaz, Councilwoman Dutkowski, Councilman Adams, Councilman Steward, Scott Nielson, Bobbette Bond, and Commissioner Kirkpatrick
- Participated in the Southern Nevada Community Health Center Agenda Review meeting with Councilman Knudsen, Tim Burch, and Jose Melendrez
- Participated in the Southern Nevada Community Health Center Executive Director Annual Review Committee meeting
- Participated in the Southern Nevada Community Health Center Quality, Credentialing & Risk Management Committee meeting
- Participated in the FQHC CEO Monthly call meeting
- Participated in the Southern Nevada District Board of Health meeting
- Participated in the Southern Nevada Community Health Center Governing Board meeting

##### Ad-hoc Meetings:

- Participated in a meeting with Patrick Garman, Vaccines Medical Director at Pfizer's U.S. Medical Affairs on vaccine updates of interest on the safe and effective use of the Pfizer vaccines

- Participated in a COCA call on the CDC's Recommendations for COVID-19 Boosters
- Participated in the CDC call on the Implementation of Test-to-Stay Strategies in the K-12 Settings
- Participated in the EMS Advisory Committee meeting

**Week ending 10/24:**

Weekly Meetings:

- Participated in a COVID Response meeting with representatives from the local health authorities facilitated by DHHS
- Participated in the White House IGA Weekly Briefing call

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 individual Southern Nevada District Board of Health Agenda Review meetings with Councilman Black, Councilman Knudsen and Commissioner Segerblom

Quarterly:

- Attended the Southern Nevada Health District Regional Trauma Board meeting

Professional Development/ Conferences:

- Attended the 2021 CEO/ CFO Leadership Institute In-person Kick-off Session (2 days)
- Attended "Update on COVID-19 in People Who Are Immunocompromised, Waning Immunity, Breakthrough Infection, and Booster Shots" webinar

Ad-hoc Meetings:

- Participated in a meeting with Chrissie Juliano on Big Cities Health Coalition
- Participated in a meeting with Councilman Knudsen on the Southern Nevada Public Health Laboratory requirements for Managed Care Accreditation
- Participated in a meeting with Peter Ronza regarding the Classification and Compensation Study
- Participated in the Community Health Assessment (CHA) Prioritization meeting

**Week ending 10/17:**

Weekly Meetings:

- Participated in the CDC COVID-19 All State, Tribal, Local, and Territorial Update call
- Participated in a COVID Response meeting with representatives from the local health authorities facilitated by DHHS

Bi-weekly (every two weeks):

- Participated in a Hospital CEO Medical Surge Update call

Monthly:

- Participated in the County Health Officer meeting facilitated by the Department of Public and Behavioral Health

#### Quarterly:

- Attended the Southern Nevada Health District Public Health Advisory Board meeting

#### Media/Interviews/Panelist/Presenter:

- Interview with Jaclyn Schultz (KVVU-TV 5) on the vaccination gaps among racial/ethnic communities, especially among African American communities
- Interview with Joe Moeller (KLAS-TV 8) on companies requiring vaccines

#### Professional Development/Conferences:

- Participated in the Update on SARS-CoV-2 Variants of Concern and Vaccines webinar
- Attended the 2021 CEO/CFO Leadership Institute In-person Kick-off Session (2 days)

#### Ad-hoc Meetings:

- Participated in a meeting with the Chair and Vice-Chair of the Regional Trauma Advisory Board on Trauma Field Triage Criteria (TFTC) Step 4
- Participated in a meeting with Commissioner McCurdy on the vaccination efforts in the African American community
- Participated in a CityHealth Advance Briefing for BCHC Members on Updated Medals/Policies
- Attended the CCSD Student Showcase Luncheon

#### **Week ending 10/10:**

##### 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 a COVID Response meeting with representatives from the local health authorities facilitated by DHHS

##### Monthly:

- Participated in the BCHC Monthly Member Call meeting

##### Bi-annually:

- Participated in the HRSA Semi-Annual Call on Grant #H80CS33641

#### Media/Interviews/Panelist/Presenter:

- Interview with Alexander Zapata (Univision) on community transmission of COVID
- Presenter at the COVID-19 in Adults and Children Clark webinar facilitated by the County Medical Society

#### Professional Development/Conferences:

- Attended the "Updates on COVID-19 Variants, Disease Prevention and Management" webinar as part of the Mayo Clinic COVID-19 Live Webinar Series
- Attended the "2021-2022 Influenza Vaccination - Guidance for Coadministration of Influenza and COVID-19 vaccines" webinar facilitated by Clinician Outreach and Communication Activity (COCA)

- Attended “The Critical Role of Monoclonal Antibodies as the COVID-19 Pandemic Continues” webinar facilitated by the HHS Office of the Assistant Secretary for Preparedness and Response

Ad-hoc Meetings:

- Participated in a meeting on COVID-19 Testing and Health Inequalities in the African American Community with Commissioner McCurdy
- Participated in the State Board of Health Emergency Meeting

**Week ending 10/03:**

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

Quarterly:

- Participated in the Big Cities Health Coalition (BCHC) Fall 2021 Member meeting

Annually:

- Participated in the Nevada Primary Care Association (NVPCA) 2021 Annual Member meeting

Media/Interviews/Panelist/Presenter:

- Interview with Victor Sanchez (Univision) on the COVID-19 booster doses
- Interview with Victoria Saha (KLAS) on the COVID-19 booster doses
- Interview with Samuel Toledo (Telemundo) on the COVID-19 booster doses
- Interview with Jaclyn Schultz (KVVU-TV 5) on the COVID-19 booster doses

Professional Development/Conferences:

- Attended the following webinars as part of the 2021 ACPM Board Review Course Ask the Experts Event:
  - “Health Services Management”
  - “Epidemiology”
  - “Health Services Management”
  - “Biostatistics”
  - “Clinical Preventive Medicine”
  - “Health Services Management”

Ad-hoc Meetings:

- Attended a call with CDC COCA on “What Clinicians Need to Know About CDC Booster Recommendations”
- Attended a call with DHHS on their “We Can Do This Campaign” strategy
- Participated in a call with Richard Walker (Eide Bailly) on the annual audit