



**DATE:** January 27, 2022

**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) – Testing

As the demand for COVID-19 testing has increased due to surges in cases as a result of the Omicron variant and holiday travel and gatherings, the Southern Nevada Health District has worked with its jurisdictional and community partners to increase available resources and testing options. Appointment and walk-in availability have been expanded at existing sites, and new, large-scale drive-thru sites have opened at Texas Station and Fiesta Henderson with support from the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services. Clark County, the Health District and the State of Nevada requested the additional testing resources to help meet the community's testing needs with support from the City of North Las Vegas and the City of Henderson. To accommodate heavy demand for testing, the sites are operating as appointment-only sites will offer approximately 4,000 tests each day.

The Texas Station clinic opened to the public on Wednesday, January 12, on the first floor of the facility's parking garage on the south side of the property at 2101 Texas Star Lane, off Rancho Drive and Coran Lane. The site operates five days a week, 12 p.m. to 8 p.m., Wednesday through Sunday. The drive-thru operation at the Fiesta Henderson opened on Saturday, January 15, at 777 W. Lake Mead Parkway. The site will operate five days a week, 12 p.m. to 8 p.m., Saturday through Wednesday.

Appointment registration and lab processing for these locations is managed by eTrueNorth. Individuals are provided with information to receive their test results, which should be available in less than 48 hours. Results will be available through the eTrueNorth site at: [www.INeedaCOVID19Test.com](http://www.INeedaCOVID19Test.com). People who have difficulty accessing their results can call 1-800-635-8611.

Additional Health District and partner COVID-19 testing information is available at [www.snhd.info/covid-testing](http://www.snhd.info/covid-testing). In addition to the Health District's website, an online test site finder tool listing pharmacies and other sites offering testing is available on the Nevada Response website at <https://nvhealthresponse.nv.gov/find-covid-19-testing-in-nevada/>. Appointments are recommended at most sites. While walk-in appointments may be accepted, they are based on availability and might not be available at all sites. People seeking testing are encouraged to check websites frequently for appointment availability.

### Coronavirus Disease 2019 (COVID-19) – Isolation and Quarantine

The Health District is following updated Centers for Disease Control and Prevention guidance for isolation and quarantine. People who test positive for COVID-19 must self-isolate for 5 days after their test was collected. If they do not have symptoms at that time or their symptoms are resolving, they may leave isolation but must continue to wear a mask when around others for 5 more days. If they have a fever, they must continue to stay home until their fever goes away.

People who have symptoms but have not been tested for COVID-19, including fever, chills, cough, shortness of breath, fatigue, muscle or body aches, headache, new loss of taste or smell, sore throat, congestion or runny nose, nausea, vomiting, or diarrhea, should get tested. They should isolate away from others while waiting for their test results. If they do not get tested, they should isolate for 5 days after their symptoms began, and until it has been at least 24 hours since they had a fever (without taking fever-reducing medicines like Tylenol or ibuprofen), their other symptoms have improved, and continue to wear a mask around others for 5 more days.

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

COVID-19 vaccines are now recommended for everyone 5 years and older. Pfizer is currently the only COVID-19 vaccine authorized for children 5 years through 17 years of age. Booster doses are recommended for everyone 12 years and older. More information is available on the Centers for Disease Control and Preventions [website](#).

As of January 12, a total of 3,246,728 doses of COVID-19 vaccine have been administered in Clark County.

- Total Doses Reported Initiated: 1,619,465
  - Overall: 69.86%
  - 18 years and older: 83.73%
  - 5 years and older: 72.56%
- Total Doses Reported Completed: 1,312,461
  - Overall: 56.62%
  - 18 years and older: 68.65%
  - 5 years and older: 58.47%

Weekly reports, including breakthrough infection reports and updates about variants circulating in the community are available on the Health District website at [www.snhd.info-covid](http://www.snhd.info-covid).

### Influenza Surveillance

In Clark County, for the season as of January 1, 2022, there have been 22 influenza-associated hospitalizations and one influenza-associated death reported. The percentage of emergency department and urgent care clinic visits for influenza-like-illness (ILI) reached alert level of 6.2% in week 52 which was higher than week 51 (4.3%). Approximately 15% of area emergency department and urgent care clinic visits for ILI were made by children 0-4 years of age, which was lower than week 51 (17%). Forty-seven percent of area emergency department and urgent



care clinic visits for ILI were made by adults 18-44 years of age, which was higher than week 51 (42%). Influenza A has been the dominant type circulating. Nationwide, seasonal influenza activity is increasing. Among the 55 states/jurisdictions, the ILI activity level in Nevada was high. The Health District will continue to update the public on flu activity and encourage flu vaccinations for everyone 6 months of age and older.

### Fentanyl Test Strips

As deaths from overdoses in Clark County have increased by 34 percent in 2020, the Health District secured resources to distribute fentanyl test strips to the public and provide education and information to community partners so they can distribute them as well. The fentanyl test strips are available through the Health District's pharmacy located at 280 S. Decatur Blvd.

The test strips detect fentanyl and fentanyl analogs and help to meet an important public health need. People who inject drugs have expressed interest in having their drugs checked for fentanyl, and the availability of test strips along with harm reduction counseling and access to resources and treatment is an innovative public health strategy that can help save lives.

- Statewide Nevada saw a 55% increase in fatal overdose deaths from 2019 to 2020.
- Statewide overdoses among those younger than 25 years nearly tripled from 2019 to 2020.
- In Clark County deaths increased from 418 deaths in 2019 to 560 in 2020. This increase is primarily driven by illicit fentanyl.
- The number of deaths involving fentanyl deaths among Clark County residents increased from 81 in 2019 to 193 in 2020.

\*Data are preliminary and subject to change.

Community partners and agencies who are interested in distributing test strips can contact the Health District for information and training through its Linkage to Action (L2A) program at [L2A@snhd.org](mailto:L2A@snhd.org). The Health District's L2A program launched in January with a mobile outreach unit. It is funded through the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention's (CDC) Overdose Data to Action program to prevent drug overdoses through education, surveillance and assistance accessing services to prevent overdoses. Staff members work to link people who are struggling with substance use disorders to resources and recovery services. The team also provides overdose education, Naloxone, and referrals to essential services such as housing, mental and behavioral health care services, medical care, and transportation.

### Community Meetings

#### **Week ending 12/31:**

#### 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

#### Ad-hoc Meetings:

- Participated in a meeting with Clark County representatives regarding COVID-19 testing
- Participated in a CDC COVID-19 Isolation and Quarantine Update

**Week ending 12/26:**

Weekly Meetings:

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

Monthly:

- Participated in the FQHC CEO Monthly Call

Ad-hoc Meetings:

- Participated in NACHC – 50 Years of Progress and Hopes for the Future webinar
- Participated in a meeting with Megan Comlossy (Larson Institute) to discuss projects and potential collaboration to improve public health
- Participated in a meeting with Argentum Partners regarding ARP Wishlist
- Participated in a meeting with Director Richard Whitley regarding the Southern Nevada Public Health Lab

**Week ending 01/09:**

Weekly Meetings:

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

Media/Interviews/Panelist/Presenter:

- Interview with Adriana Arevalo (Voice of America) on the Omicron variant, testing and vaccine efforts
- Interview with Mary Hynes (Las Vegas Review-Journal) on the future of COVID-19
- Interview with Rosana Romero (KLAV-AM/Planticado con Rosana) on COVID-19 vaccine and testing
- Interview with Cafecito con Luz Gray y Michelle Rindels (NV Independent) on COVID-19

Professional Development/Conferences:

- Attended the “Academic Health Sciences Systems (AHSS): Discovery to Health to Population to Society webinar

Ad-hoc Meetings:

- Participated in a meeting with Clark County and State representatives regarding COVID-19
- Participated in a meeting with Clark County and State representatives regarding ICATT surge
- Participated in a meeting with Jeffrey Haag and Bradley Mayer regarding SNPHL expansion
- Attended a Recognition Ceremony at Las Vegas City Hall for the Southern Nevada Community Health Center
- Participated in a meeting with Clark County representatives regarding COVID Response & Recovery
- Participated in a CDC COVID-19 Quarantine and Isolation Update
- Attended the Community Health Worker HEAL Graduation Ceremony at the College of Southern Nevada



**Week ending 12/19:**

Weekly Meetings:

- Participated in the CDC COVID-19 All State, Tribal, Local, and Territorial Update call
- Participated in the CDC COVID-19 Omicron Briefing
- Attended the White House IGA Weekly Briefing

Biweekly (every two weeks):

- Participated in a COVID Response meeting with representatives from the local health authorities facilitated by DHHS

Monthly:

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

Bimonthly (every two months):

- Participated in the Nevada Primary Care Association (NVPCA) Policy Committee

Media/Interviews/Panelist/Presenter:

- COVID-19 Media Availability on the Omicron variant

Professional Development/Conferences:

- Attended an SNHD Leadership Development session
- Attended the "COVID-19 Oral Antiviral Agents" webinar facilitated by Clinical Care Options, LLC
- Attended the CDC "COVID-19 Related Response" webinar on how to get state COVID testing locations to show up in Google

Ad-hoc Meetings:

- Participated in a meeting with HRSA on the Ending the HIV Epidemic – Primary Care HIV Prevention (PCHP) Supplemental Funding Award
- Attended the CDC "Post ACIP Meeting Partner Update" call

**Week ending 12/12:**

Weekly Meetings:

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

Monthly:

- Participated in the Monthly BCHC Member meeting

Media/Interviews/Panelist/Presenter:

- Interview with Christian Cazares (Channel 8) on the new East Las Vegas Community Health Center location
- Interview with Ruben Kihuen (98.1FM) on the Omicron variant
- Presented at the Esta En Tus Manos Task Force Relaunch meeting

Professional Development/Conferences:

- Attended the "Achieving a Diverse and Effective Public Health Workforce Summit" webinar
- Attended the "2021 CEFOI Faculty-Led Session 2: The Strategic Leader" webinar facilitated by NACHC
- Attended the "2021 Best Practice Webinar Series – Part 3"
- Attended the "Opioid and Drug Prescribing and Abuse" webinar facilitated by the Clark County Medical Society

- Attended the “COCA – Molecular Approaches for Clinical and Public Health Applications to Detect Influenza and SARS-CoV-2 viruses” webinar
- Attended the “NACCHO Innovative Funding Webinar Series - #1” webinar

Ad-hoc Meetings:

- Participated in a meeting with representatives from the Nevada Primary Care Association

**Week ending 12/05:**

Weekly Meetings:

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

Monthly:

- Participated in the FQHC CEO monthly meeting
- Participated in the Southern Nevada Community Health Center Governing Board meeting
- Participated in the State Board of Health meeting

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

Media/Interviews/Panelist/Presenter:

- Interview Samuel Toledo (Telemundo) and Victor Sanchez (Univision) on the Omicron variant
- Attended the Grand Opening for the new Sexual Health Clinic at All Saints Episcopal Church and to commemorate World AIDS Day
- Attended the Launch Day for the Fast-Track Cities Global HIV Dashboard on World AIDS Day

Professional Development/Conferences:

- Attended the “Public Health Forward: Modernizing the U.S. Public Health System” webinar facilitated by the Bipartisan Policy Center
- Attended the “Latest on the Omicron Variant, Therapeutics, and COVID-19 in People Who are Immunocompromised” webinar

Ad-hoc Meetings:

- Participated in a meeting with Lisa Sherych and Julia Peek on the EpiTrax Project
- Participated in a meeting with Mayor Goodman, Councilman Knudsen, Councilwoman Diaz and representative from the City of Las Vegas and Catholic Charities on street feeding health concerns
- Participated in a meeting with Ardandia Campbell-Williams (HRSA) on the 2022 Onsite Visit for the Southern Nevada Community Health Center

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