



DATE: February 24, 2022
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) – Testing

The Southern Nevada Health District recently added a feature to its COVID-19 testing calendar. People can now see the number of appointments available at many Health District clinics when they visit the site to make an appointment or view the clinic listings.

Testing at the Clark County Fairgrounds moved to the Clark County Community Center, 320 N. Moapa Valley Blvd., Overton, NV, on February 9. Hours of operation continue to be Mondays and Wednesdays from 9 a.m. – 2 p.m. Appointments are preferred, but walk-ins are accepted if capacity allows. Additional information is available: www.snhd.info/covid-testing.

The Southern Nevada Health District expanded testing at four of its library mobile testing unit locations:

- **Aliante Library**, 2400 Deer Springs Way, North Las Vegas, NV 89084
Monday through Friday, 11 a.m. – 6 p.m.
- **Sunrise Library**, 5400 E. Harris Ave., Las Vegas, NV 89110
Monday through Friday, 10 a.m. – 6 p.m.
- **Whitney Library**, 5175 E. Tropicana Ave., Las Vegas, NV 89122
Monday through Friday, 10 a.m. – 6 p.m.
- **West Las Vegas Library**, 951 W. Lake Mead Blvd., Las Vegas, NV 89106
Monday through Friday 10 a.m. – 6 p.m.

Testing at the three College of Southern Nevada campuses reverted to their original hours of operation, Monday through Thursday, 12 p.m. – 4 p.m.

The drive-thru site at Texas Station, 101 Texas Star Lane off Rancho Drive, continued to operate five days per week, Wednesday through Sunday, from 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. through Sunday, February 20.

Drive-thru testing at Fiesta Henderson concluded its three-week operations on Wednesday, February 2.

Both sites opened in early January and were scheduled to operate for three weeks in response to a surge in local testing demand following the holidays and as COVID-19 cases increased due to the Omicron variant.

More information about testing, and a list of additional Health District and community partner testing sites, is available at www.snhd.info/covid-testing.

Coronavirus Disease 2019 (COVID-19) – Treatment

Paxlovid

The Southern Nevada Health District is providing the COVID-19 oral medication, Paxlovid, at its 280 S. Decatur Blvd. public health center. The treatment is available for people age 65 and older and people age 12 to 64 who are at risk for severe illness who are tested at the Health District, who test positive and have symptoms. Symptoms must have started within the last five days. People must also meet other criteria to take the medication and will be evaluated at the Health District. The treatment is free.

A complete list of conditions included in the criteria is available on the Health District's website at www.snhd.info/paxlovid.

At this time, the Health District does not anticipate any shortages of this medication and it has ordered additional treatment courses.

Monoclonal Antibodies

Starting February 7, 2022, monoclonal antibody (mAb) therapies are available, free-of-charge, on the second floor of Elite Medical Center, 150 E Harmon Ave, Las Vegas. Appointments are available seven days a week between the hours of 8:30 am and 4:30 pm. Appointments must be made in advance (no-walk-ins accepted) by calling (702) 481-4209. Healthcare providers may make an appointment on behalf of their patients or may encourage their patients to make the appointment themselves.

The Health District's [Public Health Update](#) provides more information about Evusheld™ as a pre-exposure prophylaxis, Sotrovimab as a treatment of mild-to-moderate COVID-19 per guidelines, as well as links to fact sheets for both treatment options.

For additional information, visit <https://www.fda.gov/media/149534/download>.

Coronavirus Disease 2019 (COVID-19) – Vaccine Update

As of February 7, a total of 3,376,425 doses of COVID-19 vaccine have been administered in Clark County.

- Total Doses Reported Initiated: 1,659,156
 - Overall: 71.57%
 - 18 years and older: 85.30%
 - 5 years and older: 74.39%
- Total Doses Reported Completed: 1,336,263
 - Overall: 57.64%

- 18 years and older: 69.30%
- 5 years and older: 59.56%

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.

Influenza Surveillance

In Clark County, for the season as of January 29, 2022, there have been 33 influenza-associated hospitalizations and three influenza-associated deaths reported. The percentage of emergency department and urgent care clinic visits for influenza-like-illness (ILI) decreased from 3.5% in week 3 to 2% in week 4. Approximately 18% of area emergency department and urgent care clinic visits for ILI were made by children 0-4 years of age, which was slightly higher than week 3 (35%). Thirty-two percent of area emergency department and urgent care clinic visits for ILI were made by adults 18-44 years of age, which was lower than week 3 (35%). Influenza A has been the dominant type circulating. Nationwide, seasonal influenza activity has decreased in recent weeks, but sporadic activity continues across the country. The percentage was below the national baseline of 2.5%. Among the 55 states/jurisdictions, the respiratory illness activity level in Nevada was low. The Health District will continue to update the public on flu activity and encourage flu vaccinations for everyone 6 months of age and older.

American Heart Month

February is American Heart Month, and the Southern Nevada Health District and its partners are offering free programs and classes to help people manage hypertension and other heart disease risk factors.

Free Self-Monitoring Blood Pressure Program

Keeping blood pressure in check is important for people with hypertension and lowers the risk for stroke or heart disease. Offered in partnership with the YMCA of Southern Nevada, the Healthy Hearts Ambassador Program provides personalized support to help people with hypertension develop a blood-pressure self-monitoring routine, tips to maintain cardiovascular health, and nutrition education. Classes are free and begin in February at the Bill and Lillie Heinrich YMCA (4141 Meadows Ln., Las Vegas, NV 89107) and SkyView YMCA (3050 E. Centennial Parkway, North Las Vegas, NV 89081). Spots are limited and registration is open now. The program is available in English and Spanish. For more information, call (702) 832-4901 or email ledmond@lasvegasyymca.org.

Free Youth Cooking Class

Learning how and what to cook is key to a healthy lifestyle. In partnership with the 100 Black Men of Las Vegas, the Health District sponsored a cooking class for young people, ages 5-18, to learn about heart healthy cooking. Guest chef Gentry Richardson hosted the virtual Youth Cooking Class on Wednesday, February 23. The class was free to interested participants.

Free Blood Pressure Checks

Free blood pressure checks were available at the following locations:

- **Friday, February 4:**
The Beautiful Studio, 1 p.m. – 3 p.m. at the Go Red Event, 3950 N. Tenaya Way, Ste. 120, Las Vegas, NV 89129
- **Saturday, February 5:**
Blade Masters Barbershop, 10 a.m. – 12 p.m., 2245 N. Decatur Blvd. Las Vegas, NV 89108
- **Saturday, February 12:**
Executive Cuts Barbershop, 10 a.m. – 12 p.m., 921 W. Owens Ave., Las Vegas, NV.89106
- **Saturday, February 26:**
Hats Off Barbershop, 10 a.m. – 12 p.m., 5625 S. Rainbow Blvd., Las Vegas, NV. 89118

The Health District’s Office of Chronic Disease Prevention and Health Promotion has additional resources to help individuals make small lifestyle changes that can reap healthy rewards, including:

Free Hypertension Education Program

“With Every Heartbeat is Life” is a six-week program to help people learn to lower their risk for heart disease and to better manage other health conditions. The class is free and limited to members of the Martin Luther King Senior Center. Space is limited. For more information, call (702) 759-1270 or email gethealthy@snhd.org.

Apps

[Get Healthy Clark County](#) offers free smartphone apps to help increase physical activity and eat better. The Walk Around Nevada app and online program helps to track daily physical activities. The Neon to Nature app can help locate walking, hiking, biking, or horse trails throughout Clark County. Half My Plate can provide a little motivation to include more fruits and vegetables in meals and snacks. The SNAP Cooking App has healthy recipes that can be prepared, well, in a snap! The app also makes it easy to find retailers that accept SNAP benefits by ZIP code. People can find the app that fits their lifestyle by visiting the [Get Healthy Clark County Mobile Apps](#) page. Visit [Viva Saludable](#) for apps that are available in Spanish.

Nevada Tobacco Quitline

Quitting smoking is one of the most famous resolutions and one of the best decisions a person can make. [Get Healthy Clark County](#) has free tobacco cessation resources available to help, including the Nevada Tobacco Quitline at 1-800-QUIT-NOW (1-800-784-8669). The Quitline is available in English and Spanish 1-855-DÉJELO-YA (1-855-335-3569) and it is a phone-based service available to Nevadans age 13 and older. Callers will work with a coach who can provide quitting assistance. Some people might be eligible to receive free supplies of nicotine replacement patches, gum or lozenges. For more information, visit [Get Healthy Clark County Live Tobacco Free](#) or the [Viva Saludable Live Tobacco Free](#) websites.

Free Diabetes Self-Management Classes

For people with diabetes, self-management is the key to staying healthy and reducing the risk of complications. The free classes are taught by trained facilitators who can help participants better manage their condition with evidence-based meal planning, physical activity, and diabetes resources. The class is appropriate for people living with diabetes, caregivers, and people who have prediabetes. Virtual and in-person classes are scheduled throughout 2022. Classes are free, but class size is limited. For information or to register, visit www.getthehealthyclarkcounty.org/myd, call (702) 759-1270 or email getthehealthy@snhd.org or vivasaludable@snhd.org.

National HIV Awareness Day

To commemorate National Black HIV/AIDS Awareness Day on February 7, the Southern Nevada Health District and the Southern Nevada HIV Awareness Consortium provided free, rapid HIV testing, STD screenings, and education about pre- and post-exposure prophylaxis (PrEP, PEP) at Nucleus Plaza, 1040 W. Owens Ave., Las Vegas, NV 89106. The event also featured a vendor health fair and free entertainment.

National Black HIV/AIDS Awareness Day is an opportunity to highlight work underway to reduce HIV infections, reduce sexually transmitted disease and address HIV stigma in Black/African American communities. It encourages testing so people can learn their HIV status and begin to receive treatment if they are HIV-positive. Although Black/African American communities have made great progress in reducing HIV transmission, HIV/AIDS continues to disproportionately impact Black/African American communities throughout the United States and Nevada. In 2019, Black/African American people in the United States accounted for 13 percent of the population but 40 percent people with HIV, according to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC). The CDC also reports that fewer African Americans received HIV care or remained in HIV care during 2018. More information is available on the CDC's [website](#).

HIV testing was also available at the Sexual Health Clinic at All Saints Episcopal Church, 4201 W. Washington Ave., Las Vegas, NV 89107 and free HIV test kits are also provided through the Health District's [Collect2Protect](#) program. The CDC and Health District recommend all people between the ages of 13 and 64 receive at least one HIV test. People at higher risk of HIV infection should consider getting an HIV test at least once every year and as frequently as every three months for people at higher risk. Early diagnosis is critical for people with HIV so that they can benefit from antiretroviral therapy (ART). ART reduces HIV levels in the bloodstream, reduces HIV-related illnesses, and lowers the risk of transmitting HIV to intimate partners. With ART, HIV-positive people can remain healthy for many years.

Community Meetings

Week ending 01/30:

Weekly:

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

Biweekly (twice a week):

- Participated in a meeting with representatives from Clark County and UMC on COVID-19

Bi-weekly (every two weeks):

- Participated in a meeting with representatives from DHHS on COVID-19

Monthly:

- Participated in the individual Southern Nevada District Board of Health Agenda Review meetings with Councilman Adams, Councilman Black, Councilwoman Diaz, Commissioner Kirkpatrick and Scott Nielson
- Participated in the Southern Nevada Community Health Center Finance & Audit Committee meeting
- Participated in the Southern Nevada District Board of Health Finance Committee meeting
- Participated in the Clark County Medical Society Board of Trustees meeting
- Participated in the Southern Nevada District Board of Health meeting
- Participated in the Southern Nevada Community Health Center Governing Board meeting

Quarterly:

- Participated in the Facilities Advisory Board meeting
- Participated in the Southern Nevada Community Health Center Quality, Credentialing & Risk Management Committee meeting

Media/Interviews/Panelist/Presenter:

- Media Briefing on COVID-19
- Presented at the COVID-19 Virtual Form (Facebook Live) with R.E.A.C.H. Ventanilla de Salud on the omicron variant and testing (Spanish-language)
- Interview with Ruben Kihuen (Fiesta 98.1FM) on COVID-19 testing, vaccine and the omicron variant (Spanish-language)

Ad-hoc Meetings:

- Participated in a meeting with Scott Nielson and Virginia Valentine regarding SB4

Week ending 01/23:

Annual:

- Participated District Health Officer (DHO) Annual Review Committee meeting

Week ending 01/16:

Weekly:

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

Biweekly (twice a week):

- Participated in a meeting with representatives from Clark County and UMC on COVID-19

Bi-weekly (every two weeks):

- Participated in a meeting with representatives from DHHS on COVID-19

Bi-monthly (every two months):

- Participated in the Las Vegas Medical District Discussion with Councilman Knudsen and representatives from the UNLV, UHS and UMC

Monthly:

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

Media/Interviews/Panelist/Presenter:

- Media Availability to Launch the Texas Station Drive-thru Testing
- Interview with Julie Wootton-Greener (Las Vegas Review-Journal) on the COVID-19

Professional Development/Conferences:

- Attended the "PCSS Clinical Roundtable - Scope of the Fentanyl Crisis" webinar facilitated by Dr. Edwin Salsitz
- Attended the "Virtual Grand Rounds: COVID-19 Therapeutics" webinar facilitated by the California Medical Association
- Attended the "2021 CEFOI Faculty-Led Session 3: Managing the Bottom Line" webinar facilitated by NACHC
- Attended the "What Clinicians Need to Know About the New Oral Antiviral Medications for COVID-19" webinar facilitated by COCA
- Attended the "Health Center COVID-19 Therapeutics Program" webinar facilitated by HRSA
- Attended the "Test to Stay Practices in Schools" webinar facilitated by NACCHO
- Attended the "2021 CEFOI Cohort Team Meeting" webinar facilitated by NACHC

Ad-hoc Meetings:

- Participated in the State Board of Nursing Q/A - Apprentice Program
- Participated in an HHS webinar on COVID-19 therapeutics
- Participated in the Clark County COVID-19 Regional Policy Meeting
- Participated in a meeting with Bradley Mayer on legislative updates
- Participated in a meeting with Kevin McOsker (Building & Safety) and Peter Lowenstein (Planning) of the City of Las Vegas on the temporary facility at the SNHD Main Location
- Participated in a meeting with Dr. Amanda Koziel regarding an HIV/Primary Care Physician

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