



DATE: March 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)

COVID-19 metrics have continued to steadily decline in Clark County, and the Southern Nevada Health District will begin updating its dashboard on a weekly basis. The last daily update to the dashboard occurred on Friday, March 11. The Health District's COVID-19 dashboard, aggregate and trend reports are now updated and posted each Wednesday.

Daily COVID-19 counts reflect newly reported cases that were tested in the preceding days, and the Health District redistributes these cases by symptom onset or diagnosis date to better reflect disease trends in the community. While COVID-19 remains in the community at lower levels, other disease metrics and trends along with the new CDC framework will provide better insight for monitoring the level of disease in Clark County.

The CDC's new recommendations are focused on minimizing severe disease, limiting strain on the health care system, and enabling those at highest risk to protect themselves against infection and severe disease. The new framework is designed to help communities determine which prevention strategies at different points of an outbreak are needed to prevent disruptions from COVID, increase protection from severe disease and reduce strains on health care facilities, and save lives. The updated metrics help individuals assess their risk and determine if they need additional precautions such as masks based on their location and health status.

The Health District is committed to gathering, analyzing, and reporting local COVID-19 data to assist with and direct the ongoing COVID-19 response. Data are integral for anticipating new trends, identifying emerging variants, planning ongoing vaccination and testing initiatives, and keeping the public and response partners informed.

The Health District's COVID-19 dashboard and reports are available at www.covid.southernnevadahealthdistrict.org/cases/.

Coronavirus Disease 2019 (COVID-19) — N95 Mask Program

The Health District is participating in the Health Resources and Services Administration (HRSA) Health Center COVID-19 N95 Mask Program through its Southern Nevada Community Health Center. The program provides any member of the community with up to three N95 respirators. People who would like to receive them can visit the main public health center at 280 S. Decatur Blvd. and request them at the front desk. The N95s are available while supplies last.

The Health District is also providing masks to community partners and service providers so they can be distributed to their clients.

Influenza Surveillance

In Clark County, for the season as of February 26, 2022, there have been 52 influenza-associated hospitalizations and six influenza-associated deaths reported. The percentage of emergency department and urgent care clinic visits for influenza-like-illness (ILI) increased slightly from 1.4% in week 7 to 1.6% in week 8. Approximately 38% of area emergency department and urgent care clinic visits for ILI were made by children 0-4 years of age, which was higher than week 7 (28%). Twenty-three 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 7 (29%). Influenza A has been the dominant type circulating. Nationwide, seasonal influenza activity has decreased in recent weeks, but sporadic activity continues across the country. During week 8, 1.5 percent of patient visits reported through the U.S. outpatient ILI Illness Surveillance Network (ILINet) were due to respiratory illness that included ILI. This percentage was below the national baseline of 2.5%. Among the 55 states/jurisdictions, the respiratory illness activity level in Nevada was minimal. The Health District will continue to update the public on flu activity and encourage flu vaccinations for everyone 6 months of age and older.

Pop-up Produce Markets

The Health District’s Office of Chronic Disease Prevention and Health Promotion is partnering with the Regional Transportation Commission of Southern Nevada (RTC) and the Veggie Buck Truck to once again schedule pop-up produce markets at the Bonneville Transit Center (BTC) in spring and fall with an additional location at the Health District’s main facility. Patrons will pay about a dollar for a pound of fresh fruit or vegetables. The partnership is an effort to increase access to low-cost, healthy fresh fruit and vegetables. For more information, call the Office of Chronic Disease Prevention and Health Promotion at (702) 759-1270 or visit the [Get Healthy Clark County Farmers Markets](#) page.

The schedule for this season’s pop-up produce markets is:

Bonneville Transit Center (BTC), 12:30 p.m. 101 E. Bonneville Ave., Las Vegas, NV 89101 Market will be open while supplies last	Southern Nevada Health District, 9 a.m. 280 S. Decatur Blvd., Las Vegas, NV 89107 Market will be open while supplies last
Wednesday, April 6	Wednesday, April 13
Wednesday, May 4	Wednesday, May 11
Wednesday, June 1	Wednesday, June 8
Wednesday, September 7	Wednesday, September 14
Wednesday, October 5	Wednesday, Oct. 12
Wednesday, November 2	Wednesday, November 9

Nutrition education and resources will be available at the Southern Nevada Health District pop-up produce markets.

A pilot project was launched in September 2021, with three pop-up markets held on consecutive Wednesdays. The markets served about 185 attendees and nearly 700 pounds of fresh produce were sold over the course of the three market days. Forty-five percent of these sales were SNAP/EBT, WIC, farmers markets coupons and Double Up Food Buck coupons.

The BTC is typically accessed by about 9,000 customers each day. The markets are open to everyone. Customers can use their Supplemental Nutritional Assistance Program (SNAP) benefits at the pop-up

markets. People who use SNAP will be eligible for Double Up Food Bucks and earn a coupon they can apply to future produce purchases at participating locations. The Double Up Food Bucks program doubles the value of SNAP benefits, helping people to bring even more healthy food into their homes. Customers can use cash, debit, or credit cards.

For a list of local farmers markets, including those that accept EBT, SNAP and debit or credit cards, visit the [Get Healthy Clark County Farmers Markets](#) page.

Secret of Siam Investigation

The Health District is working with partner agencies to investigate a potential association between THC toxicity and the consumption of food or drink in people who ate at Secret of Siam, located at 5705 Centennial Center, Las Vegas, NV 89149. The food establishment is currently closed.

Several dozen patrons have reported they consumed items from the restaurant between January 28, 2022, and February 14, 2022, and experienced symptoms. Initial signs and symptoms included hallucinations, blurry vision, increased heart rate, disorientation or confusion, dizziness, loss of consciousness, dry mouth, and numbness or tingling in extremities. Some patrons who reported they did not intentionally consume or use marijuana in the previous 30 days tested positive for THC on a laboratory toxicological screen. All patrons have recovered. Additional reports of similar symptoms in additional patrons are under investigation.

The restaurant is closed while the investigation continues, and food testing is being conducted to identify the source of contamination. The Health District has created a self-reporting survey on its website to identify additional patrons and gather information about which food or drink items could be possible sources. The Health District is encouraging all patrons who dined at the restaurant during January 24-February 14, 2022 — whether they experienced symptoms or not — to complete the survey. The survey is available at www.snhd.info/siamsurvey.

People may also contact the Health District at (702) 759-1300 if they have any questions or need assistance with the survey.

NHANES

The National Health and Nutrition Examination Survey (NHANES), the most comprehensive survey of the health and nutritional status of the U.S. population, is coming once again to Clark County, NV, beginning March 11, 2022.

All counties and cities in the United States have a chance to be selected for the NHANES and, this year, Clark County is one of 15 counties selected to be part of this initiative. Each year, only 5,000 residents nationwide are chosen to participate in NHANES, conducted by the National Center for Health Statistics (NCHS), part of the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC). NHANES provides important national data about critical public health issues. NHANES serves as the nation's 'health check-up' by going into communities throughout the country to collect health information. The survey provides a wealth of important data about many of the major health and nutritional issues affecting the country.

Since 1960, NHANES has had a prominent role in improving the health of all people living in the U.S. NHANES data address critical health concerns, such as obesity, diabetes, and cardiovascular disease. Public health officials, legislators, and physicians use this information to develop sound

health policies, direct and design health programs, and services, and expand the health knowledge of the nation. NHANES data also help produce national references and standardized growth charts used by pediatricians across the country. NHANES collects a broad range of data that impact the lives of everyone in the country, regardless of age, addressing everything from air quality to vaccinations and the low-fat and “light” foods found in grocery stores. Now more than ever, collecting timely information on the status of the nation’s health is critical.

Residents will have an invitation-only opportunity to participate in NHANES. Addresses are randomly sampled within Clark County. By selecting participants this way, when combining data from all counties visited this year, NHANES data can more accurately represent the U.S. population. Households are sent one or more letters inviting them to be part of NHANES by completing a brief online questionnaire to see if anyone in their home is eligible to participate. Those eligible are contacted by an NHANES representative to set up a telephone health interview at a convenient time, followed by a health examination that takes place in the NHANES mobile examination center. While no medical care is provided directly in the mobile examination center, a report on physical findings is given to each participant, along with an explanation of those findings from survey medical staff. All information collected in the survey is kept confidential and individual privacy is protected by law. More information is available at www.cdc.gov/nchs/nhanes/participant.htm.

National Women and Girls HIV/AIDS Awareness Day

To commemorate National Women and Girls HIV/AIDS Awareness Day on Thursday, March 10, the Southern Nevada Health District provided free Express HIV Testing at its Sexual Health Clinic located at 280 S. Decatur Blvd. More information about services available at the Sexual Health Clinic are available on the Health District’s website.

National Women and Girls HIV/AIDS Awareness Day is an opportunity to support women and girls who are living with HIV and to encourage others to be tested for HIV. According to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) for every 100 women with HIV, 90 knew their HIV status. While HIV diagnoses among women declined 7 percent between 2014 and 2018, the decline varied among race and ethnicity. Hispanic and Black/African American women continue to be more impacted by HIV than their white counterparts.

Testing is an opportunity for women and girls to learn their HIV status so they can take steps to protect their health. Routine testing is recommended for women who are at a high risk of infection. The Health District also offers free, at-home HIV, chlamydia and gonorrhea testing through its Collect2Protect program. The kits are available on the Health District’s Collect2Protect page and provide a convenient and private testing option.

According to the CDC, just 7 percent of women who could benefit from pre-exposure prophylaxis (PrEP) were prescribed the medication in 2018. PrEP is a medication that can be provided to people who do not have HIV but are at a high risk of infection. PrEP can help prevent people from becoming infected with the virus. For more information about women and PrEP, visit the CDC’s Let’s Stop HIV Together webpage.

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 02/27:

Weekly:

- Attended the White House IGA Weekly Briefing

Bi-weekly (every two weeks):

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

Monthly:

- Participated in the Southern Nevada Community Health Center Finance & Audit Committee meeting
- Participated in the individual Southern Nevada District Board of Health Agenda Review meetings with Councilman Black, Councilman Knudsen, Scott Nielson, Bobbette Bond, Commissioner Kirkpatrick, Councilwoman Dutkowski, Councilwoman Diaz, and Councilwoman Romero
- 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:

- Media Briefing on COVID-19

Professional Development/Conferences:

- Attended the Kirk Kerkorian School of Medicine at UNLV Research Seminar Series – Development of Health Behavior Instruments for Clinical Researchers Confirmation
- Attended the Pandemic Preparedness: Now is the Time webinar

Ad-hoc Meetings:

- Attended the Special Session of the CDC COVID-19 All-STLT Update call

Week ending 02/20:

Weekly:

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

Monthly:

- Participated in the Monthly County Health Officer meeting
- Participated in the individual Southern Nevada District Board of Health Agenda Review meetings with Councilman Adams

Quarterly:

- Participated in the February FQHC Quarterly meeting

Media/Interviews/Panelist/Presenter:

- Interview with Telemundo on COVID-19 Q&A
- Media Briefing on COVID-19

- Interview with Mary Hynes (Review-Journal) for a Black History Month Profile
- Interview with Yaimee Bell (Telemundo) for a Black History Month Profile

Professional Development/Conferences:

- Attended the “Wellbeing Wednesdays Episode 6 – New Directions: Federal Solutions and Other Steps to Overcome the Nation’s Overdose Crisis” webinar facilitated by the CDC
- Attended the “Integrating HIV/STI Prevention into Primary Care Practice” webinar facilitated by The Pacific AIDS Education and Training Center Nevada

Ad-hoc Meetings:

- Participated in individual briefings with the Board of Health members regarding the Classification and Compensation Study

Week ending 02/13:

Professional Development/Conferences:

- Attended the CDC webinar on the pediatric COVID-19 vaccination for children ages 6 months to 4 years
- Attended the “2021 CEFOI Faculty-Led Session 4: Leading an Effective Team” webinar facilitated by NACHC

Ad-hoc Meetings:

- Participated in a meeting with Senator Donate
- Participated in a meeting with the Governor’s Office and local health authorities
- Participated in individual briefings with the Board of Health members regarding the Classification and Compensation Study

Week ending 02/06:

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

Quarterly:

- Participated in the Desert Meadows AHEC Quarterly Board meeting

Media/Interviews/Panelist/Presenter:

- Media Briefing on COVID-19

Professional Development/Conferences:

- Attended the “PCMH Health Equity Technical Assistance Symposium” (2-days)
- 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 Mary Jarrell and Stephanie Stokes (Intermountain Healthcare)

- Participated in a meeting with Pete Ronza (Pontiflex Consulting Group) and Jerry Keating (Core 4 Consulting) regarding the Compensation and Class Study
- Participated in a meeting with representatives from the State and Comagine Health regarding the Pathways Community Health Workers (CHWs) project
- Attended the Black History Month Art Exhibit and Community Awards hosted by Commissioner McCurdy