



DATE: June 23, 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 Community Level

On June 10, 2022, the Southern Nevada Health District announced Clark County had reached a high community level for COVID-19 and strongly recommended individuals wear masks when in public indoor places and stay up to date on their COVID-19 vaccines. People who have symptoms or have been in contact with someone who has tested positive for COVID-19 should get tested, and people who are sick should stay home and isolated from others in their household. Those who are at higher risk for severe illness may need to take additional precautions. This can include having a plan for rapid testing if needed and talking to your health care provider about options for treatments with oral antivirals and monoclonal antibodies.

The Health District reminded the community that the pandemic is not over and that as long as the virus is still circulating in the community, there is still the opportunity for surges in case counts and hospitalizations.

The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention measures COVID-19 community levels using a combination of three metrics. These include new COVID-19 hospital admissions per 100,000 population in the past seven days, the percent of staffed inpatient beds occupied by COVID-19 patients, and the total new COVID-19 patients per 100,000 population in the past 7 days. The Health District posts updated COVID-19 data, including an aggregate and trends report and its COVID-19 dashboard, at www.snhd.info/covid-data.

Self-Test Vending Machines

The Health District and its partners installed two vending machines that dispense at-home COVID-19 self-test kits at the Regional Transportation Commission's (RTC) Bonneville Transit Center (lobby), 101 E. Bonneville Ave., Las Vegas, NV 89101, and the Mesa View Regional Hospital (emergency department lobby), 1299 Bertha Howe Ave., Mesquite, NV 89027. A new location for a third vending machine will be available soon.

The project was funded with support from the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention's national initiative to address COVID-19 health disparities among populations that are at high risk for infection and who are underserved, including minority and rural communities.

Since the beginning of the pandemic, the Health District has looked for new ways to make testing more accessible to the public, including people in more rural areas of Clark County. Testing remains a key component of the Health District's mitigation strategy and provides people with the information they need to protect themselves and others.

The at-home antigen test kits are free. People who are interested in accessing the tests from the vending machines can register here www.snhd.info/testkit. A PIN will be issued once registration is completed. It is recommended that a telephone number be included, but it is not required. The phone number will become the PIN if it is provided. The PIN will allow people to access any of the three vending machines and receive five tests per month.

COVID-19 Boosters

COVID-19 boosters for children 5 through 11 years of age became available at all Health District locations on May 17, 2022, when the U.S. Food and Drug Administration (FDA) amended the emergency use authorization for Pfizer's vaccine, allowing for its expanded use.

60th Anniversary

The Health District recently commemorated its 60th anniversary with a State of the Health District address highlighting its accomplishments and challenges of the past few years.

Following statutory authorization by the Nevada State Legislature in 1959, the agency began operations as the Clark County Health District in a temporary structure built as an Army Medical Station during World War II on June 5, 1962. The Health District employed 30 staff members, including four "sanitarians" responsible for inspecting some 800 eating and drinking establishments. Today, approximately 800 employees provide a variety of programs and services designed to protect and promote the health of Clark County residents and visitors, including inspecting more than 17,000 permitted food establishments each year.

Dr. Fermin Leguen, District Health Officer for the Southern Nevada Health District, was joined by Councilman Scott Black, chair of the Southern Nevada District Board of Health, and staff members who presented updates about the Health District's recent activities related to the COVID-19 pandemic at its celebration on June 8, 2022. Dr. Leguen provided the State of the Health District, outlined the public health agency's recent accomplishments and his vision for the future of public health and the agency. The presentation will be available on the Health District's YouTube channel at www.youtube.com/user/SNHealthDistrict.

In recognition of the 60th anniversary of the Health District, a timeline, commemorative e-book and more are available on the Health District's website at www.snhd.info/60-healthy-years/.

Influenza Surveillance

Current influenza surveillance efforts have shown that Nevada, along with the rest of the nation, is experiencing higher case rates, influenza-like illness (ILI) rates, and hospitalization rates than what is typically expected during this time of year. It is unclear how influenza rates and hospitalization will trend moving into the summer months. Given this uncertainty along with the increasing trends, current influenza surveillance in Nevada will be extended through the summer months and into the 2022-2023 season, which begins on October 2, 2022.

In Clark County, for the season as of June 4, 2022, there have been 403 influenza-associated hospitalizations and 11 influenza-associated deaths reported. The percentage of emergency department and urgent care clinic visits for ILI decreased from 4.0% in week 21 to 3.7% in week 22. Approximately 23% of area emergency department and urgent care clinic visits for ILI were made by children 0-4 years of age, which was similar to week 21 (23%). Influenza A has been the dominant type circulating. Nationwide, seasonal influenza activity continues to increase in parts of the country. During week 22, 2.3% 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 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.

Community Meetings

Week ending 05/29:

Weekly:

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

Monthly:

- Participated in the individual Southern Nevada District Board of Health Agenda Review meetings with Councilwoman Diaz, Councilman Adams, Councilman Black, Councilman Knudsen, Commissioner Segerblom, Commissioner Kirkpatrick, Scott Nielson, Councilwoman Dutkowski, Councilwoman Romero, Bobbette Bond
- Participated in the Southern Nevada Community Health Center Finance & Audit Committee meeting
- Participated in the FQHC CEO Monthly call
- 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 May FQHC Quarterly meeting

Media/Interviews/Panelist/Presenter:

- Interview with Rosana Romero (Review-Journal / 7@7) regarding Memorial Day recommendations and COVID-19

Ad-hoc Meetings:

- Attended a presentation from Paycom Online regarding a payroll service
- Attended the Las Vegas BioWatch Advisory Committee meeting
- Attended a meeting with Fr. Rafael Pereira at All Saints Episcopal Church
- Participated in the NMHEC Latinx/Latino Steering Committee Check-in and Updates meeting
- Participated in a meeting at Las Vegas City Hall regarding Public Health and the Medical District
- Participated in a meeting with Dr. Cappelli and Dr. Garcia (UNLV) regarding the SNCHC dental clinic

Week ending 05/22:

Weekly:

- Attended the White House IGA Weekly Briefing

Media/Interviews/Panelist/Presenter:

- Provided welcoming remarks at the Health District After Dark on Extreme Heat
- Interview with Alicia Pattillo (KTNV-TV 13) on the post-COVID-19 emergency declaration

Professional Development/Conferences:

- Leadership Training, facilitated by David Goodman

Ad-hoc Meetings:

- Participated in the UNLV School of Nursing recognition plaque presentation
- Participated in a meeting with Julia Peek and Karen Hall regarding ARPA funds
- Participated in a meet/greet meeting and tour of the SNHD Decatur location with Julia Peek, Lisa Sherych and Dawn Cribb
- Participated in a meeting with Bradley Mayer regarding a legislative update
- Participated in a meeting with community partners on the projected arrivals of refugees for fiscal year 2023
- Participated in the HRSA virtual Operational Site Visit pre-visit call with the review team

Week ending 05/15:

Weekly:

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

Monthly:

- Participated in the Big Cities Health Coalition (BCHC) Monthly Members Call

Professional Development/Conferences:

- 2021-2022 CEO/CFO Combined Leadership Institute Wrap-up, facilitated by the National Association of Community Health Centers (NACHC)

Ad-hoc Meetings:

- Participated in a meeting with Nancy Bowen, Executive Director of the Nevada Primary Care Association
- Participated in the County Public Health Emergency Declaration Discussion
- Attended a tour of the SNHD Mesquite location with Councilwoman Karen Dutkowski
- Attended a meeting on Advancing Racial Justice for Health facilitated by the Big Cities Health Coalition
- Participated in a Discussion on CDC's COVID-19 Community Levels (CCL) Report Mock-up with NACCHO/BCHC members

Week ending 05/08:

Weekly:

- Attended the White House IGA Weekly Briefing

Monthly:

- Participated in the Southern Nevada District Board of Health Finance Committee meeting
- Participated in the Southern Nevada District Board of Health special meeting

Media/Interviews/Panelist/Presenter:

- Interview with La Madrina (Fiesta 98.1FM Radio) on COVID-19

Professional Development/Conferences:

- Leadership Training, facilitated by David Goodman (two days)

Ad-hoc Meetings:

- Participated in a Legislative Update call with representatives from Argentum Partners

Week ending 05/01:

Weekly:

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

Monthly:

- Participated in the individual Southern Nevada District Board of Health Agenda Review meetings with Councilwoman Diaz, Councilman Black, Councilman Knudsen, Councilman Adams, Commissioner Segerblom, Councilwoman Dutkowski, Councilwoman Romero, Scott Nielson, Bobbette Bond, Commissioner Kirkpatrick
- Participated in the Southern Nevada Community Health Center Finance & Audit Committee meeting
- Participated in the FQHC CEO Monthly call
- 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 representatives from the State and local health authorities on Public Health Funding
- Attended the Southern Nevada County Health Rankings