



DATE: July 28, 2022

TO: Southern Nevada District Board of Health Members

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

SUBJECT: District Health Officer Report

Monkeypox

On June 22, the Southern Nevada Health District reported the first probable case of monkeypox had been confirmed in a Clark County resident. The individual was a male in his 20s who reported domestic travel, did not require hospitalization and isolated at home.

To date, the Health District is reporting a total of six cases of monkeypox in Clark County residents. The cases have occurred in males in their 20s-50s. With the exception of one individual who required hospitalization, all other cases isolated at home. None of the identified cases are associated with each other.

Monkeypox spreads from person to person through direct contact with the infectious sores, rash, or bodily fluids; through respiratory secretions during prolonged face-to-face contact, or during intimate physical contact, such as kissing, cuddling or sex; or through touching items, such as linens, that have been used by someone who has monkeypox. Additionally, pregnant people can spread the virus to their fetuses. Identified contacts are asked to monitor themselves for symptoms for 21 days post-exposure. People with unknown rashes or lesions should contact their health care provider for an assessment and avoid sex or being intimate during that time.

People who are immunocompromised, young children, people who are pregnant or breastfeeding, and those with certain skin conditions may be more at risk for severe illness. People who test positive for monkeypox should follow the treatment and prevention recommendations of their health care provider and the Health District.

The Health District ordered an initial shipment of monkeypox vaccines, known by the brand name Jynneos, for high-risk people including laboratory personnel, cases and close contacts. According to the CDC, the vaccine is effective in preventing monkeypox disease up to four days after exposure and may reduce the severity of symptoms if given up to 14 days after exposure. The Health District is awaiting delivery.

At this time, the risk of monkeypox in the United States is believed to be low. Monkeypox does not spread easily between people, and the time between exposure and when symptoms start gives health officials more time to track down contacts and break the chain of infection. People who do not have monkeypox signs or symptoms cannot spread the virus to others.

Recommendations for those who may have had contact with the monkeypox virus are available on the CDC's [Exposure Risk Assessment and Public Health Recommendations](#) page. The Health District posts weekly updates, including case counts, to its monkeypox page at www.southernnevadahealthdistrict.org/Health-Topics/monkeypox.

Coronavirus Disease 2019 (COVID-19)

Children ages 5 and under now have access to COVID-19 vaccines at Southern Nevada Health District clinics. The Pfizer vaccine is authorized for children 6 months to 4 years of age and is a three-dose series. The second dose is administered between three and eight weeks after the first dose. The third dose is administered at least eight weeks after the second dose. The Moderna vaccine is authorized for children ages 6 months to five years of age in a two-dose series, with the second dose administered four to eight weeks after the first dose.

Children in this younger age group can be vaccinated with whichever vaccine is available. Children who have already had COVID-19 should still get vaccinated. Since the pandemic began, COVID-19 has become one of the top 10 causes of pediatric deaths. The Health District is continuing to emphasize that while children may be at lesser risk of severe illness, there is no way to predict how sick they may become. Vaccination remains the most effective way to protect children from serious illness, hospitalization and death. More information about vaccination clinics, resources and more is available at www.snhd.info-covid.

As Omicron BA.5 becomes the dominant COVID-19 variant circulating and Clark County remains at a "high" community level, the Health District is continuing to encourage the public to get fully vaccinated and boosted if they are eligible and to wear masks in public indoor places to slow the transmission of the virus. The Health District posts weekly variant reports at

Online Appointment System

The Health District launched its online appointment system for immunizations on June 21. Immunization clinic clients can make their own appointments online through the Patient Portal at <https://vax4nv.nv.gov/patient/s> for travel, flu, measles, rubella, pertussis, hepatitis A and B, and other routine vaccines offered at all four of the Health District's [immunization clinic locations](#). People who may not have online access or need additional assistance making appointments may call (702) 759-0850. This appointment system is the same one community members have been using to make appointments for COVID-19 vaccines.

This year, Clark County School District's (CCSD) school year begins on Monday, August 8, and the Health District is encouraging parents and guardians not to wait until the last minute to ensure their children are appropriately immunized. The new appointment system will make it easier for them to schedule their children's appointments in advance and check vaccinations off their back-to-school to-do list. The Health District is working with (CCSD) to provide information to parents and guardians about immunization requirements and clinic information to help ensure their children are prepared for the first day of school.

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 25, 2022, there have been 411 influenza-associated hospitalizations and 13 influenza-associated deaths reported. The percentage of emergency department and urgent care clinic visits for ILI slightly increased from 2.5% in week 24 to 2.7% in week 25. Approximately 22% 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 24 (22%). Influenza A has been the dominant type circulating. Nationwide, during week 25, 1.8% 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, Nevada's respiratory illness activity level increased from Minimal to 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.

Community Meetings

Week ending 06/26:

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 Dutkowski, Councilman Black, Councilman Adams, Scott Nielson, Commissioner Kirkpatrick, Bobbette Bond, Councilwoman Diaz, Councilwoman Romero, Councilman Knudsen
- Participated in the Southern Nevada Community Health Center Finance & Audit Committee meeting
- Participated in the Southern Nevada District Board of Health meeting
- Participated in the Southern Nevada Community Health Center Governing Board meeting

Professional Development/Conferences:

- Attended the CEO's Leadership Network Refresher – Emotionally Intelligent and Psychologically Safe Leadership webinar facilitated by NACHC

Ad-hoc Meetings:

- Participated in a meeting with Councilman Scott Black regarding the new Public Health Lab
- Participated in a meeting with representatives from Washoe County Health District, the state, and Argentum Partners regarding IHC Policy recommendations

Week ending 06/19:

Monthly:

- Participated in the Monthly County Health Officer meeting
- Participated in the individual Southern Nevada District Board of Health Agenda Review meeting with Commissioner Segerblom

Bi-monthly (every two months):

- Participated in the Nevada Primary Care Association Policy Committee meeting

Professional Development/Conferences:

- Attended the webinar on Medical Countermeasures for the Treatment and Prevention of Monkeypox facilitated by the CDC

Ad-hoc Meetings:

- Attended the At-Large Member Selection Committee meeting
- Participated in a meeting with Dr. Leon Ravin, Psychiatric Medical Director, regarding potential CIT training at SNHD
- Participated in an introduction meeting with Dr. Johnson Gill, Director of Public Health at San Manuel Enterprise
- Attended a discussion with the U.S. Surgeon General on COVID-19 Therapeutics

Week ending 06/12:

Weekly:

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

Media/Interviews/Panelist/Presenter:

- Presenter at the SNHD 60th Anniversary State of the Health District

Ad-hoc Meetings:

- Participated in a conference call with Richard Whitley

Week ending 06/05:

Professional Development/Conferences:

- The Future of Health Summit facilitated by Big Cities Health Coalition