



**DATE:** August 25, 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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### **Monkeypox**

On August 9, the U.S. Food and Drug Administration issued an emergency use authorization allowing health care providers to administer the JYNNEOS vaccine by intradermal injection for individual 18 years of age and older who are determined to be at high risk for monkeypox infection. This method of administering the vaccine can increase the total doses up to five-fold. The EUA also allows the vaccine to be administered to individuals younger than 18 years of age if they are determined to be a high risk for infection. JYNNEOS is administered by subcutaneous injection to individuals younger than 18 years of age.

As cases of monkeypox continue to increase in Clark County, the Southern Nevada Health District is conducting disease investigations and has made the limited supply of vaccine it has received available to those most at risk. Those currently eligible to receive the vaccine include:

- Those who had close physical contact within the past 14 days with someone known or suspected of having monkeypox. This includes those who know or suspect their sexual partner(s) of having monkeypox and those who live in the same household as someone they know or suspect of having monkeypox.
- Those who have been informed by the Health District they are a close contact of someone with monkeypox.
- Gay, bisexual, or other men who have sex with men, and/or transgender, gender non-conforming, or gender non-binary individuals who had multiple or anonymous sex partners in the last 14 days, especially at a venue, event or within a social group where a person with a known or suspected case of monkeypox was present.

Individuals who had monkeypox are not eligible for the vaccine. Vaccine clients are assessed prior to receiving the vaccine to ensure they meet the eligibility requirements.

The antiviral medication tecovirimat (TPOXX) is also available to treat monkeypox infections. People who may be at risk for severe disease or complications may benefit from treatment. More information for health care providers on the availability of TPOXX for the treatment of monkeypox is available on the Health District's [website](#).

The Health District posts updated monkeypox information, including case counts, at [www.snhd.info/monkeypox](http://www.snhd.info/monkeypox). Updates for health care providers are available at [www.southernnevadahealthdistrict.org/news-info/health-care-professionals/public-health-advisories/](http://www.southernnevadahealthdistrict.org/news-info/health-care-professionals/public-health-advisories/).

### **Coronavirus Disease 2019 (COVID-19)**

COVID-19 cases counts have continued to decline, and on August 11, the community level in Clark County was reported as low by the CDC. Based on the current level, the Health District recommends people stay up to date on their COVID-19 vaccines, get tested, and wear a mask if they have symptoms, a positive test or were exposed to someone with COVID-19. People may choose to wear a mask at any time to protect themselves and others when they are in public indoor places.

Also on August 11, the CDC announced streamlined COVID-19 guidance to help people better understand their risk and take actions to protect themselves and others. The recommendations for quarantine no longer differ by vaccination status. People who are exposed to COVID-19 should wear a high-quality mask for 10 days and get tested on day five. The CDC no longer recommends people quarantine if they are exposed. The CDC announcement is available on its [website](#).

Adults in Clark County can also now choose from another COVID-19 vaccine at Health District clinics. Novavax, which has been used worldwide, has been available at all Health District clinics since August 3. Novavax was developed using protein-based technology, which the U.S. Food and Drug Administration has used for decades to develop vaccines. The vaccine is authorized as a two-dose primary series for adults 18 years and older. The second dose should be received three to eight weeks after the first dose. People who are immunocompromised should also receive two doses of the vaccine. Novavax is not authorized for use as a booster dose at this time.

In clinical trials, the vaccine was shown to be 90 percent effective at preventing mild, moderate and severe disease. Reported side effects are mild and like those reported from the mRNA vaccines. The side effects were more commonly reported after the second dose of the vaccine. More information about Novavax is available at [www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/vaccines/novavax.html](http://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/vaccines/novavax.html).

For more updated Health District COVID-19 information, including clinic listings and resources, go to [www.snhd.info/covid](http://www.snhd.info/covid).

### **Food Handler Safety Training Cards**

Southern Nevada Health District Food Handler Safety Training Card clients who took their food safety test in person at a Health District location after July 2018 can now renew their cards online — no appointment required. The new online process is available at [www.southernnevadahealthdistrict.org/programs/food-handler-safety-program/online-renewal/](http://www.southernnevadahealthdistrict.org/programs/food-handler-safety-program/online-renewal/).

To see if they qualify to renew their card online, individuals should have their Food Handler Card number and expiration date ready when they begin the online process. Clients who did not complete the training at a Health District location, or completed the training before July 2018, are still required to make an appointment to test in person for a renewal. The process for renewing a Food Handler Safety Training card includes:

- Study and prepare for the test. Free training materials in a variety of languages are available at [www.snhd.info/foodhandler](http://www.snhd.info/foodhandler).
- Go to [www.southernnevadahealthdistrict.org/programs/food-handler-safety-program/online-renewal/](http://www.southernnevadahealthdistrict.org/programs/food-handler-safety-program/online-renewal/) to enter Food Handler Card number and expiration date.
  - Applicants that do not qualify for the online renewal process can make appointments for in-person testing

at [www.southernnevadahealthdistrict.org/programs/food-handler-safety-program/schedule-an-appointment/#/](http://www.southernnevadahealthdistrict.org/programs/food-handler-safety-program/schedule-an-appointment/#/).

- Qualified employees can register for the renewal and online test.
- Pass the test with a score of 70% or better.
  - If the test is not passed the first time, it can be retaken as early as the next day. The retest fee of \$5.00 will be added to the card fee at check out.
- Pay the \$20.00 card fee (and retest fee if applicable).
- If completing online, print the Food Handler Safety Training Certificate to be used in place of the Food Handler Card / Health Card.
- The certificate is good for three years.

More information about the Food Handler Safety Training Card Program is available at [www.snhd.info/foodhandler](http://www.snhd.info/foodhandler).

### **2022 Southern Nevada Substance Misuse and Overdose Prevention Summit**

Health District staff planned and participated in the community's third annual Southern Nevada Substance Misuse and Overdose Prevention Summit which focused on Facts, not Fear: Understanding Fentanyl and Its Impacts. The summit was held on August 10, with participants attending both in-person and virtually. This year's speakers discussed expanding access to evidence-based harm reduction services, removing barriers to treatment and recovery support services, at-risk populations, community prevention efforts and more.

- Statewide, Nevada saw a 28.6% increase in fatal overdose deaths from 2019 to 2020.
- Statewide overdoses among those younger than 25 years more than doubled from 2019 to 2020.
- In Clark County, deaths increased from 445 deaths in 2019 to 605 in 2020. This increase is primarily driven by synthetic opioids (which includes fentanyl), benzodiazepines, and cocaine.
- The number of deaths involving fentanyl among Clark County residents increased from 81 in 2019 to 209 in 2020, and 225 in 2021.

*(Data are preliminary and subject to change.)*

Presentations also included information about harm-reduction tools, including fentanyl test strips and naloxone; education about fentanyl including prevention science; the public health issues and intervention strategies surrounding the opioid and fentanyl epidemic; a fentanyl impact panel; collegiate recovery communities; treatment options for pregnant and post-partum people; the scope of sexual violence in the community; and the nature and scope of human trafficking in our communities.

### **Community Meetings**

**Week ending 07/31:**

N/A

**Week ending 07/24:**

N/A

**Week ending 07/17:**

Bi-Monthly (every two months):

- Participated in a meeting with Bradley Mayer regarding a legislative update

Quarterly:

- Nevada Primary Care Association (NVPCA) Finance Committee meeting

Professional Development/Conferences:

- Attended the Congressional Briefing “Pain in the Nation: The Epidemics of Alcohol, Drug, and Suicide Deaths” webinar

Ad-hoc Meetings:

- Participated in a meeting with Elaine Aromin, Assistance Director of Compliance, UNLV, regarding the CDC Workforce Development Grant and UNLV’s program for future leadership in healthcare administration
- Participated in a meeting with Dr. Kenneth Osgood regarding the Public Health Advisory Board
- Participated in a meeting with Commissioner Marilyn Kirkpatrick and Deputy County Manager Kevin Schiller regarding an opioid presentation
- Participated in a meeting with Richard Walker, Senior Audit Manager, Eide Bailly, regarding the FY2022 Audit

**Week ending 07/10:**

Monthly:

- Participated in the BCHC Member meeting

Quarterly:

- Participated in the Nevada State EMS Advisory Committee meeting

Professional Development/Conferences:

- Attended the COVID-19: What We Know Today – A Dialogue About the Public Health, Scientific, and Clinical Aspects of the Pandemic webinar

**Week ending 07/03:**

Quarterly:

- Participated in the Graduate Medical Education Committee (GMEC)

Ad-hoc Meetings:

- Participated in the HRSA virtual Operational Site Visit (three days)
- Participated in a meeting with Commissioner Marilyn Kirkpatrick, Councilman Scott Black, Richard Whitley, Julia Peek, Shauna Tilley, Maureen Schafer and Warren Hardy regarding the new Public Health Lab
- Participated in an Application Information webinar regarding the CDC Workforce Grant (OE22-2203)