



DATE: September 22, 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 September 14, 2022, the Southern Nevada Health District announced it had expanded eligibility for the monkeypox vaccine to additional individuals who are at risk for exposure. This includes:

- Gay, bisexual or other men who have sex with men, and transgender, gender non-conforming or other gender non-binary individuals **with** HIV or a history of a sexually-transmitted infection in the last 12 months.
- Sex workers of any gender identity or sexual orientation.

Individuals already included in the criteria for monkeypox vaccination are:

- 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.
 - 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 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 will be 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 and weekly monkeypox virus case reports at www.snhd.info/monkeypox. Updates for health care providers are available at www.southernnevadahealthdistrict.org/news-info/health-care-professionals/public-health-advisories/.

Coronavirus Disease 2019 (COVID-19)

The updated bivalent booster vaccine is available at all Health District COVID-19 clinics. These updated COVID-19 vaccines provide additional protection from the BA.4 and BA.5 lineages of the Omicron variant of the virus, which is currently causing most cases of COVID-19 and is predicted to circulate this fall and winter. The boosters also protect against the original strain of the virus.

- The Pfizer bivalent booster vaccine is authorized for people ages 12 years and older.
- The Moderna bivalent booster vaccine is authorized for people ages 18 years and older.
- The new bivalent booster vaccines are authorized as a single booster dose administered at least two months after completion of the primary series with a COVID-19 vaccine or at least two months after receiving the most recent dose of a previously available booster.

The original monovalent COVID-19 vaccines authorized by the FDA are now used for primary doses and as booster doses for children 6-11 years of age.

Fremont Public Health Center

The Health District's newest location opened on Tuesday, September 30, at 2380 E. Fremont St., Las Vegas, NV 89104. The Fremont Public Health Center is a Federally Qualified Health Center (FQHC) and represents an expansion of the Southern Nevada Community Health Center which first opened at the Health District's main campus at 280 S. Decatur Blvd. in 2019.

The Fremont Health Center location currently offers primary care and family planning services, with plans for expansion in the areas of behavioral health, Ryan White and general dentistry services. Additional Health District programs and services at this location include Environmental Health programs and Food Handler Safety Training Cards. Food Handler Safety Training Cards will be available by appointment at a later date.

On Open House was held at the Fremont Public Health Center on Monday, September 19, to allow stakeholders and community partners to tour the facility.

Flu Vaccine

Flu vaccines are now available at Health District immunization clinics. Flu vaccines are updated each season, and the Health District is encouraging everyone 6 months and older to get vaccinated before flu viruses begin circulating in the community.

While the severity of the 2021-2022 influenza season was low, the Health District reported 13 flu deaths and 411 hospitalizations in Clark County residents. This past season, the agency extended its flu surveillance activities through June, as the community, along with the rest of the United States, was experiencing higher case rates, influenza-like illness (ILI) rates, and hospitalization rates than what was typically expected for that time of the season. The increased rates were due to a second wave of influenza A activity.

Flu vaccines can be administered at the same time as COVID-19 and monkeypox vaccines or other immunizations. However, people should follow the recommended schedule for all vaccines.

The flu vaccine is recommended for everyone 6 months of age and older. It is especially important for those at higher risk of developing serious complications from the flu. Many of the people at higher risk of complications from the flu are also at higher risk of complications from COVID-19. This includes people 65 years of age and older, people with underlying medical conditions such as heart disease, diabetes, lung disease and compromised immune systems. It is also important to protect people more likely to be exposed to both COVID-19 and flu, including health care workers and essential workers who interact frequently with the public. A complete list of people at higher risk is available on the CDC website at www.cdc.gov/flu/highrisk/index.htm.

It is best to get vaccinated before flu viruses begin spreading in the community because it takes approximately two weeks after vaccination for the antibodies to develop and provide protection against the flu. However, people can be vaccinated anytime during flu season.

Flu vaccines are available by making an appointment at <https://vax4nv.nv.gov/s/vaccine-type> or by calling (702) 759-0850. Health District immunization clinic locations include:

- Main Public Health Center, 280 S. Decatur Blvd., Las Vegas, NV 89107
- East Las Vegas Public Health Center, 2950 E. Bonanza Rd., Las Vegas, NV 89107
- Henderson Public Health Center, 220. E. Horizon Dr., Suites, A & C, Henderson, NV 89015
- Mesquite Public Health Center/Jimmie Hughes Campus, 150 N. Yucca St., Suites, 3&4, Mesquite, NV 89027

For more information about Health District public health center hours, locations and available services go to www.southernnevadahealthdistrict.org/about-us/maps/.

For more information about flu, including updated recommendations from the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC), go to www.cdc.gov/flu/index.htm.

Childhood Obesity Awareness Month

September is Childhood Obesity Month, and the Health District is raising awareness and sharing information about steps that can be taken to help prevent obesity and reduce obesity-related stigma. The Health District's Office of Chronic Disease Prevention and Health Promotion and the Partners for a Healthy Nevada Coalition are promoting the American Academy of Pediatrics' 5-2-1-0 evidence-based recommendation to provide simple guidelines to help children develop healthy habits.

The 5-2-1-0 guidelines include the following:

- 5 fruits and vegetables each day
- 2 hours or less of screen time each day
- 1 hour of physical activity each day
- 0 sugary beverages each day

In Clark County, approximately 13 percent of Clark County high school students are obese, and 15.9 percent are overweight. In Nevada, 32.2 percent of children entering kindergarten are already overweight or obese. Children who are obese are more likely to be diagnosed with related chronic diseases such as type 2 diabetes, high blood pressure, and heart disease, and they are also more likely to be obese as adults. Additionally, the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) reports that approximately 19.3 percent, or 14.4 million children in the United States are considered obese.

Promoting recommendations such as the 5-2-1-0 guidelines and providing supporting resources to the community is an important component of the public health response. However, racial and ethnic disparities in obesity underscore the need to address social determinants of health such as poverty, education, and housing to remove barriers to health. Among Hispanic children, obesity prevalence is 25.6 percent; among non-Hispanic Black children it is 24.2 percent; among non-Hispanic White children it is 16.1 percent; and among non-Hispanic Asian children, it is 8.7 percent.

The Health District also provides free programs and resources to assist families to adopt a healthier lifestyle. They are available in English and Spanish and are accessible on the [Get Healthy Clark County](#) or [Viva Saludable](#) websites or by calling (702) 759-1270.

Community Meetings

Week ending 08/28:

Monthly:

- Participated in the individual Southern Nevada District Board of Health Agenda Review meeting with Councilwoman Diaz, Councilman Adams, Councilman Black, Councilwoman Dutkowski, and Councilwoman Romero
- Participated in the Southern Nevada District Board of Health meeting
- Participated in the Southern Nevada Community Health Center Governing Board meeting
- Participated in the Big Cities Health Coalition (BCHC) Monthly Members call

Bi-Monthly (every two months):

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

Annual:

- Attended the Nevada State Medical Association Annual meeting

Media/Interviews/Panelist/Presenter:

- Interview with Radio La Voz (KENO AM) regarding SNHD Arm in Arm Campaign and Diversity FC partnership
- Interview with Ruben Kihuen (Fiesta 98.1FM) regarding mental health, community resources

Professional Development/Conferences:

- Attended the “Polio in New York: How to Recognize and Report Polio, and Reinforce Routine Childhood Polio Vaccination” webinar facilitated by Clinician Outreach and Communication Activity (COCA)

Ad-hoc Meetings:

- Participated in a meeting with Chris Saxton and Scott Nielson regarding the Proposed Food Regulations

Week ending 08/21:

Weekly:

- Attended the Monkeypox Briefing facilitated by the HHS Office of Intergovernmental and External Affairs (IEA)

Monthly:

- Participated in the individual Southern Nevada District Board of Health Agenda Review meeting with Commissioner Segerblom and Commissioner Kirkpatrick

Quarterly:

- Participated in the FQHC meeting facilitated by the Division of Health Care Financing and Policy
- Nevada Primary Care Association (NVPCA) Finance Committee meeting

Media/Interviews/Panelist/Presenter:

- Speaker at the Las Vegas Diversity FC League Pre-Game for the Arm in Arm Against COVID-19 Campaign event

Professional Development/Conferences:

- Attended the “Doc Talk: Pediatric Vaccines” webinar facilitated by Immunize Nevada

Ad-hoc Meetings:

- Participated in a meeting with Councilman Knudsen and Tabitha Pederson regarding the Las Vegas Medical District
- Participated in an Admissions Reviewer Information Session for the 2022-2023 Admissions Cycle at the Kerkorian School of Medicine at UNLV
- Participated in a meeting with Randy Smith and Dr. Lisa Durette regarding the Southern Nevada Community Health Center
- Attended the COVID-19 Memory Book Signing at the Clark County Commission

Week ending 08/14:

Monthly:

- Participated in the Monthly County Health Officer meeting
- Participated in the BCHC Monthly Member meeting

Quarterly:

- Participated in the Public Health Advisory Board meeting

Media/Interviews/Panelist/Presenter:

- Presenter at the R.E.A.C.H Ventanilla de Salud/Salvando tu Salud Facebook Live on Monkeypox
- Interview with Janelle Calderon and Luz Grey (NV Independent) on monkeypox

Professional Development/Conferences:

- Attended the “Interim Clinical Considerations for Monkeypox Vaccination” webinar facilitated by the CDC and FDA

- Attended the “Monkeypox: What Clinicians Need to Know for Persons with HIV” facilitated by AETC Pacific

Ad-hoc Meetings:

- Participated in a meeting with Eide Bailly on the audit preparations
- Attended the 2022 Southern Nevada Substance Misuse and Overdose Prevention Summit
- Attended the HHS IEA Monkeypox Briefing webinar

Week ending 08/07:

Quarterly:

- Participated in the Desert Meadows AHEC Quarterly Board meeting

Ad-hoc Meetings:

- Attended a webinar on National Research Action Plan on Long COVID facilitated by HHS Office of Intergovernmental and External Affairs
- Participated in a conference call with Dr. Luis Medina, UMC, regarding the public health program/initiative