



**DATE:** October 27, 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 October 5, 2022, the Southern Nevada Health District expanded eligibility for the monkeypox vaccine to additional individuals who are at risk for exposure. Current eligibility to receive the vaccine includes:

- 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**:
  - Have had multiple or anonymous sex partners in the last 12 months.
  - Have HIV or a history of a sexually transmitted infection in the last 12 months.
- Those who are any gender identity or sexual orientation who:
  - Are sex workers.
  - Had sex at a commercial sex venue or in association with a large public event.
- Those who are any gender identity or sexual orientation who:
  - Are a sex partner of anyone in the currently eligible groups.
  - Anticipates experiencing any of the identified risks.

Those who have received their first dose of the vaccine are eligible for the second dose, even if they do not meet any of the current criteria.

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](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/).

### **PRIDE Parade and Festival**

The Health District and Huntridge Family Clinic offered monkeypox clinics at PRIDE events this year. Health District staff offered the vaccine on Friday, October 7, at the PRIDE Parade and Huntridge Family Clinic staff offered the vaccine at the [PRIDE Festival](#) on Saturday, October 8. Additionally, Health District staff marched in the PRIDE parade to promote both COVID and monkeypox vaccines as part of its “Arm in Arm – Get the Facts. Then Get the Vaxx.” campaign.

### **Fentanyl Advisory**

On October 4, the Health District alerted the public to the ongoing risk fentanyl is posing to the community after the Las Vegas Metropolitan Police Department (LVMPD) reported six suspected drug-related overdoses had occurred in Clark County during a 36-hour period from September 25, 2022, to September 27, 2022. According to LVMPD, four out of the six drug overdoses have been preliminarily identified as fentanyl overdoses. Between January and July 2022, there were 110 fentanyl overdose deaths among Clark County residents. In 2021, there were a total of 225 fentanyl deaths; 191 deaths were reported in 2020.

In addition to raising awareness about the toll fentanyl is continuing to take on the community, the Health District issued the advisory to ensure residents would know about the resources available to them that can help prevent a fentanyl or opioid overdose.

The Health District and the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) recommend people who are at risk of opioid overdose as well as family members, friends or other individuals who can assist a person at risk should carry naloxone, also known as Narcan, an opioid-antagonist that can be administered to help reverse opioid overdoses. A newer Health District program provides fentanyl test strips, tools that can show if fentanyl is present in a pill or powder.

The Health District’s main public health center offers free naloxone and fentanyl test strips at its pharmacy at 280 S. Decatur Blvd. Other naloxone access points can be found at the [Nevada State Overdose Reversal Medication Finder](#). Additional fentanyl test strip distribution locations can be found at [Nevada State Fentanyl Test Strip Distribution Sites](#). Overdose prevention measures and training are also available to the community through local harm reduction organizations, including Health District partner organization [Trac-B Exchange](#).

From January 2018 to July 2022, a provisional estimate of 1412 opioid-related overdose deaths occurred in Clark County. Of the Clark County residents that died from opioid-related deaths, 653 (46 percent) died from fentanyl. Of these fentanyl deaths 65 percent were male; 51 percent White; 17 percent Black; 3 percent Asian; and 24 percent Hispanic/Latino. Younger adults are at the highest risk of fatal overdose involving fentanyl. The three age groups at the highest risk of fentanyl overdose deaths are 20-24, 30-34, and 25-29 years of age.

Fentanyl is a synthetic (man-made) opioid drug that is highly potent (80-100 times stronger than morphine) and often illicitly manufactured. A small amount of fentanyl can be deadly (as little as 2 mg which equals 2 grains of salt can cause a fatal overdose). Deaths involving illicit fentanyl have been increasing nationally. Fentanyl can be mixed with illicit substances to look like heroin, cocaine

or methamphetamine. People purchasing these pills or powders are often unaware that they contain fentanyl. More commonly, fentanyl is being pressed into counterfeit pills and sold on the street as Percocet, Xanax, or oxycodone, which is a contributing factor in the increase of fatal overdoses.

Other drugs are often involved in fatal fentanyl overdoses, with the most common being prescription opioids (24 percent), benzodiazepines (24 percent), psychostimulants such as methamphetamine (28 percent), and heroin (6 percent). These proportions are not mutually exclusive as more than one drug can contribute to a death.

More information about fentanyl is available on CDC's website at [www.cdc.gov/opioids/basics/fentanyl.html](http://www.cdc.gov/opioids/basics/fentanyl.html).

### **Public Health Centers – New Days and Hours of Operation**

The Health District and Southern Nevada Community Health Center are continuing their efforts to make services more accessible to the community. To this end, the Health District has expanded hours at its main public health center and has transitioned to a Monday through Friday schedule for clinical and many customer-based services. The new Fremont Public Health Center is open Tuesday through Friday and offers clinical services and Food Handler Safety Training Cards, and the East Las Vegas Public Health Center provides an Immunization Clinic location that is also open Tuesday through Friday to ensure the public has access to services provided by the Health District five days a week.

For more information about Health District locations and services offered, go to [www.southernnevadahealthdistrict.org/about-us/maps/](http://www.southernnevadahealthdistrict.org/about-us/maps/).

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

The Health District continues to provide the updated bivalent booster vaccine at all its COVID-19 clinics. The 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.

Updated COVID-19 vaccine and testing locations are available at [www.snhd.info/covid](http://www.snhd.info/covid).

### **Community Meetings**

#### **Week ending 09/25:**

##### **Monthly:**

- Participated in the individual Southern Nevada District Board of Health Agenda Review meeting with Councilman Knudsen, Councilman Adams, Councilwoman Diaz, Scott Nielson, Councilwoman Dutkowski

- Participated in the Southern Nevada District Board of Health meeting

Media/Interviews/Panelist/Presenter:

- Speaker at the Open House for the new Fremont location
- Presented on the “Intersection of Faith and Public Health: Sexual Health Clinic services at All Saints Episcopal Church” at the 2022 STD Prevention Conference

Professional Development/Conferences:

- Attended the “Board Retreat” for the Nevada Primary Care Association (two days)
- Attended the “Annual Conference” for the Nevada Primary Care Association (two days)

Ad-hoc Meetings:

- Meeting with Sean Gerstenberger, Dean, School of Medicine, UNLV
- Meeting with Father Rafael, SNCHC Governing Board Community member

**Week ending 09/18:**

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 Kirkpatrick and Commissioner Segerblom

Quarterly:

- Attended the Graduate Medical Education Committee (GMEC) meeting

Annually:

- Attended the Nevada Primary Care Association (NVPCA) Annual Member meeting

Media/Interviews/Panelist/Presenter:

- Welcome Speaker at the SNHD Health District After Dark on Reproductive Justice panel
- Speaker at the Mexican Independence Day Celebration with the Mexican Consulate at the Discovery Children’s Museum Arm in Arm Campaign sponsored event

Professional Development/Conferences:

- Attended the “Incentive-based Revenue Cycle: Retaining Top Talent in the New Workforce” webinar facilitated by Medevolve
- Attended the “2022 Annual Conference” facilitated by the Nevada Public Health Association
- Attended the “Presenter Technical Training Session” webinar in preparation for the 2022 STD Prevention Conference
- Attended the “America’s Growing Drug Overdose Crisis” webinar facilitated by the National Institute for Health Care Management (NIHCM)
- Attended the “Strengthening and Modernizing the Public Health System” webinar facilitated by the Alliance for Health Policy

Ad-hoc Meetings:

- Participated in a meeting with representatives of the office of Senator Cortez Masto (Dr. Rita K. Kuwahara, De'Liza Galimidi, Casey Badmington, Anna Marshall)

**Week ending 09/11:**

Weekly:

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

Monthly:

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

Professional Development/Conferences:

- Attended the “2022-2023 Influenza Vaccination Recommendations and Guidance on Coadministration with COVID-19 Vaccines” webinar facilitated by Clinician Outreach and Communication Activity (COCA)
- Attended the “Recommendations for Bivalent COVID-19 Booster Doses in People Ages 12 Years and Older” webinar facilitated by Clinician Outreach and Communication Activity (COCA)

Ad-hoc Meetings:

- Facilitated the New Member Orientation for new Board of Health and Public Health Advisory Board members
- Participated in a meeting with Susana Angel and Michael Uva regarding the Wrap Report
- Participated in a meeting with Rachel Smith, of Eide Bailly LLP, regarding the SNHD FY22 Audit

**Week ending 09/04:**

Media/Interviews/Panelist/Presenter:

- Pre-recorded Presentation for the 2022 STD Prevention Conference

Professional Development/Conferences:

- Attended the “What You Need to Know About the Diagnosis and Treatment of Human Monkeypox Virus” webinar facilitated by IAS-USA
- Attended the “DHP Conversation on Monkeypox with Health Departments” webinar facilitated by CDC’s Division of HIV Prevention
- Attended the “Epidemiology and Public Health Response to the Monkeypox Outbreak” webinar facilitated by IAS-USA
- Attended the “Close Hold: MPX Jurisdictional-level Vaccine Administration Data Release Pre-call” facilitated by the CDC
- Attended the “Back to School Townhall” facilitated by the White House