



DATE: April 23, 2026

TO: Southern Nevada District Board of Health Members

FROM: Cassius Lockett, PhD, District Health Officer

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to be 'CL', is written over the 'FROM' line.

SUBJECT: District Health Officer Report

National Public Health Week: State of Public Health

The Southern Nevada Health District convened public health leaders, community partners and stakeholders during its 2026 State of Public Health event, held in recognition of National Public Health Week, to highlight progress, emerging data and collaborative efforts to improve health outcomes across Clark County.

Throughout the event, Health District staff and community partners shared insights from ongoing work addressing key public health challenges, including substance use, access to care, and outreach to vulnerable populations — underscoring the impact of coordinated, community-based approaches.

District Health Officer Dr. Cassius Lockett opened the event by highlighting the role of public health in strengthening communities through prevention, partnerships and data-driven strategies, noting that through expanded partnerships, staff distributed more than 200,000 doses of naloxone and reached the state’s saturation goal for the first time in Clark County. Access to testing and care also increased across the region. Investments in public health infrastructure, including new state funding, are strengthening the agency’s ability to respond to emerging public health threats and support long-term community health.

A key focus of the event was the evolving overdose epidemic in Clark County. Health District subject matter experts and partners shared data showing that while overdose deaths rose sharply in recent years, preliminary data from 2025 suggest a decline locally, aligning with national trends, while reinforcing the need for sustained, targeted interventions.

Speakers highlighted ongoing initiatives that are making a difference in the community, including expanded naloxone distribution, increased availability of test strips, enhanced outreach and data tools including the regional [substance use dashboard](#). These efforts are helping connect individuals to care, prevent fatal overdoses and strengthen coordination among response partners.

The event also showcased the Health District’s Street Medicine program, which is bringing medical care directly to individuals experiencing homelessness. Using a low-barrier, relationship-based approach, the team delivers care in encampments and outdoor locations, meeting people where they are and connecting them to ongoing services.

Early outreach efforts have already connected dozens of individuals to care, demonstrating the program's potential to improve health outcomes for some of the community's most vulnerable residents. Health District staff and community partners shared perspectives on building trust, removing barriers to care and coordinating services across systems.

Attendees also had the opportunity to engage with public health programs and community organizations during an open forum and resource exhibit session.

The State of Public Health event serves as an opportunity to share progress, elevate community collaboration and highlight the work underway to protect and improve the health of Southern Nevada residents.

For more information, visit <https://www.southernnevadahealthdistrict.org/news-info/state-of-the-health-district/>

Lead Product Testing

The Health District now offers free lead testing for consumer products on the first Monday of each month from 7:30 to 9:30 a.m. at 280 S. Decatur Blvd. No appointment is required. The service is designed to help community members identify items that may contain lead and learn how to reduce the risk of exposure. Testing is conducted using an X-ray Fluorescence (XRF) analyzer, which can quickly detect lead and other heavy metals in many common materials and provide immediate results.

Items that may be appropriate for testing include:

- Traditional painted pottery used for food or beverages
- Toys, cups and other items frequently handled or mouthed by young children
- Household items such as keys or imported goods

The Health District recently conducted outreach testing of traditional pottery from local retail sources using XRF technology. Items tested, including ceramic water pitchers, bowls, mugs and tortilla makers, showed lead levels ranging from 24 to 64,600 parts per million. After being informed of the potential health risks, the products were voluntarily removed from sale.

Traditional painted ceramic pottery may contain lead in the paint or glaze, which can deteriorate over time and contaminate food or beverages. Lead is a naturally occurring heavy metal that has been found in a variety of consumer products, including cookware, ceramics, spices and imported goods. As these items age or break down, they can release lead dust that may contaminate homes and living spaces.

Children are especially vulnerable to lead exposure because their brains and nervous systems are still developing. Even low levels of lead can cause learning and behavioral problems, while higher levels can result in serious health effects, including anemia, hearing loss, brain damage and, in severe cases, death. Because symptoms are often not immediately visible, a blood test is the only way to confirm exposure.

Medicaid and Nevada Check Up cover lead testing for eligible children at 12 months and again at 24 months, or at any time before age 6 if earlier testing was not completed. Parents and caregivers are encouraged to speak with their child's health care provider about lead testing during routine well-child visits.

For questions about lead testing of consumer products, contact SNHD_OutbreakSupport@snhd.org. For more information about childhood lead poisoning prevention, visit: www.southernnevadahealthdistrict.org/community-health-center/clppp/.

National Infant Immunization Week

Parents and guardians were invited to tap into their “Mama Bear” and “Papa Bear” instincts during National Infant Immunization Week (April 20–27) by making sure their young children are protected against serious diseases. The Health District marked the week with a special Mama Bear, Papa Bear clinic—a family-friendly event offering vaccines, resources and giveaways on Monday, April 20 at its Main Public Health Center. Families were also encouraged to make appointments at Health District Immunization Clinics throughout the week. Children getting vaccinated received free giveaways, and parents and caregivers were entered into a raffle.

Nevada continues to follow immunization schedules recommended by the Advisory Committee on Immunization Practices (ACIP) as of June 24, 2025.

Health District Immunization Clinic locations and hours include:

- Main Public Health Center
280 S. Decatur Blvd., Las Vegas, NV 89107
Monday—Thursday, 7 a.m. to 5 p.m. (closed noon to 1 p.m.)
- East Las Vegas Public Health Center
2950 E. Bonanza Road, Las Vegas, NV 89101
Tuesday—Friday, 7 a.m. to 5 p.m. (closed noon to 1 p.m.)
- Henderson Public Health Center
220 E. Horizon Dr., Suites A&C
Henderson, NV 89015
Monday—Thursday, 7 a.m. to 5 p.m. (closed noon to 1 p.m.)
- Mesquite Public Health Center
150 N. Yucca St., Suite 5
Mesquite, NV 89027
Tuesday and Thursday, 8 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. (closed noon to 1 p.m.)

Schedule appointments at www.snhd.info/immunizations or by calling (702) 759-0850.

Extreme Heat

With triple-digit temperatures arriving earlier than usual, the Health District and community partners are reminding residents and visitors that Southern Nevada’s desert heat can be dangerous. Safety tips and resources are being shared to help the community prepare. The annual “Beat the Heat Southern Nevada” campaign provides education and resources to help people stay safe during warmer months. Information is available at www.snhd.info/BeatTheHeatSNV, and includes fact sheets in English and Spanish as well as public service announcements.

According to the National Weather Service, 2025 was the fifth warmest year on record for Las Vegas, which recorded 77 days with temperatures reaching 100 degrees or higher. So far in 2026, the average temperature through March 15 is 57.6 degrees, the highest on record for this time of year. An early-season heat wave is expected to push temperatures 20 to 30 degrees above normal

later this week, with forecasts indicating the region could exceed the all-time March record of 93 degrees at Harry Reid International Airport.

Most heat-related medical issues occur when people are overexposed to heat or overexert themselves beyond what their age or physical condition can tolerate. Older adults, children and people with mental illness or chronic diseases have the highest risk of heat-related illness. Heat illness can also affect physically fit people, particularly those participating in strenuous outdoor activity in hot weather.

In 2025, the Health District reported 284 heat-associated deaths in Clark County, a 45% decrease compared with the 513 deaths reported in 2024. Of those deaths, 21% occurred in non-Clark County residents. The Clark County Office of the Coroner/Medical Examiner reported 298 deaths where heat was a factor in 2025, which may include deaths investigated by the coroner that occurred outside of Clark County. The Health District's surveillance data include only deaths that occurred within Clark County based on available vital records data. While the decrease is encouraging, health officials emphasize that continued awareness and preparation are critical to preventing heat-related illness and death.

Children and pets should never be left unattended in vehicles. Temperatures inside a car can reach 120 degrees, even when outdoor temperatures are in the 90s. In 2025, Clark County Animal Protective Services responded to 473 reports involving animals left unattended in vehicles, most during the summer months. County code prohibits leaving animals alone in vehicles during extreme heat. Reports can be made to Animal Protective Services at (702) 455-7710. Pets that are outdoors must also have access to shade and fresh water.

Symptoms of heat exhaustion include heavy sweating, paleness, muscle cramps and dizziness. Anyone experiencing these symptoms should move to a cooler place, drink water and seek medical attention if symptoms worsen or do not improve. Health officials recommend the following safety tips to cope with extreme heat:

- Drink water even if you do not feel thirsty.
- Limit alcohol consumption, which can contribute to dehydration.
- Carry water and a mobile phone when outdoors.
- Remember to "Look Before You Lock." Never leave children unattended in a vehicle.
- Wear lightweight, loose-fitting, light-colored clothing and a hat.
- Use sunscreen with high SPF to protect against sunburn and skin damage.
- Check on friends, family and neighbors, especially older adults.
- Limit outdoor activities to early morning or evening hours.

Community Meetings

Week ending 03/29:

Biweekly:

- Participated in the Lab Expansion meeting
- Participated in the Healthcare Associated Infections (HAI) Update meeting
- Facilitated one-on-one meetings with Direct Reports

Monthly:

- Participated in the individual Southern Nevada District Board of Health Agenda Review meetings with Councilwoman Brune, MPT Gallo, Councilwoman Summers-Armstrong, Scott Nielson, Bobbette Bond, Mayor Hardy, Councilwoman Larson
- Participated in the Clark County Medical Society (CCMS) Board of Trustees meeting
- Participated in the Southern Nevada District Board of Health meeting
- Participated in the NACCHO All Local Health Officials call
- Participated in the BCHC 2nd Monthly Member meeting

Bi-monthly:

- Participated in the NALHO Local Health Officer meeting
- Participated in the Informatics Department leadership meeting
- Participated in the CSTE Chronic Disease Subcommittee call

Quarterly:

- Participated in the Finance Committee meeting

Professional Development/Conferences:

- Attended the EIS 2026 Recruitment Webinar

Ad-hoc Meetings:

- Participated in a meeting regarding Epi-Aid on overdose
- Participated in a meeting regarding the status of birth Hep B vaccinations
- Attended the Regional Trauma Advisory Board (RTAB) Nominating Committee meeting

Week ending 03/22:

Biweekly:

- Facilitated the Health Executive Council meeting
- Facilitated one-on-one meetings with Direct Reports
- Participated in the EIS Bi-weekly Check-in meeting
- Attended the SNHD/Accela Executive Touchpoint call

Monthly:

- Participated in the Southern Nevada Committee Health Center Finance & Audit Committee meeting
- Participated in the Southern Nevada Community Health Center Governing Board meeting
- Participated in the CSTE Electronic Laboratory and Disease Reporting Subcommittee call
- Participated in the individual Southern Nevada District Board of Health Agenda Review meetings with Mayor Pro Tem Scott Black and Commissioner Kirkpatrick

Ad-hoc Meetings:

- Attended a meeting regarding a measles update
- Attended a meeting regarding the Public Health Accreditation Board Annual Report
- Attended a meeting with Dr. Deryk Van Brunt, CEO at CredibleMind

Week ending 03/15:

Biweekly:

- Participated in the Lab Expansion meeting
- Facilitated one-on-one meetings with Direct Reports

Monthly:

- Participated in the BCHC Monthly Member meeting
- Participated in the CSTE Surveillance Policy Subcommittee call

Media/Interviews/Panelist/Presenter/Events:

- Presented at the Water Pathogen Detection Instrumentation event at UNLV

Professional Development/Conferences:

- Attended the Public Health Data Modernization session at the Healthcare Information and Management Systems Society, Inc. (HIMSS) Conference

Ad-hoc Meetings:

- Participated in the Southern Nevada District Board of Health Special meeting

Week ending 03/08:

Biweekly:

- Participated in the Lab Expansion meeting
- Facilitated one-on-one meetings with Direct Reports
- Participated in the Healthcare Associated Infections (HAI) Update meeting
- Participated in the EIS Bi-weekly Check-in meeting

Monthly:

- Participated in the Monthly Leadership Finance meeting

Quarterly:

- Participated in the State Board of Health meeting

Media/Interviews/Panelist/Presenter/Events:

- Presented at the Clark County Board of Commissioners meeting on the Southern Nevada Health District programs and services

Professional Development/Conferences:

- Attended the Public Health Accreditation Board ROI Listening Session

Ad-hoc Meetings:

- Participated in a meeting regarding the UNLV BioWatch Program
- Participated in a meeting regarding the Federal Poverty Level guidelines, the Sliding Fee Schedule and the Clinical Master Fee Schedule
- Participated in a meeting regarding the Joint Special Committee to Examine Functions at Hotels for Housekeeping Staff