



DATE: August 28, 2014

TO: Southern Nevada District Board of Health Members

FROM: Joseph Iser, MD, DrPH, MSc, Chief Health Officer

SUBJECT: District Health Officer Report

Ebola

Although the risk is low, the Southern Nevada Health District is taking steps to ensure it is prepared to detect and manage reported cases of Ebola in Clark County. Health district staff is trained to respond to any reports of communicable diseases. Procedures are in place to investigate suspect cases and the health district continues to provide updates to the health care community through health alerts and advisories that address proper infection control and procedures. Staff also continues to monitor refugees from affected countries through the refugee health clinic.

The health district continues to perform routine and enhanced surveillance and the Southern Nevada Public Health Laboratory is ready to process specimens in the unlikely event it becomes necessary to do so. Staff is working with local response partners including the airport, first responders, and the medical community to ensure the latest recommendations/guidance is disseminated.

Key Messages to the public and stakeholders to date include:

- This is the largest Ebola outbreak in history and the first in West Africa.
- The outbreak in West Africa is worsening, but CDC, along with other U.S. agencies and international partners, is taking active steps to respond to this rapidly changing situation.
- Ebola does not pose a substantial risk to the U.S. general population.
- A person infected with Ebola virus is not contagious until symptoms appear.
- The virus is spread through direct contact with the bodily fluids of an infected person.
 - Ebola is not spread through the air or by food or water.
- There have been no confirmed Ebola cases in the United States, other than the two U.S. health workers evacuated from Liberia.
- The health district is keeping in frequent contact with state and federal partners to ensure staff has the most up to date information and guidelines.

Accreditation Update

The Health district's ten-member accreditation team continues to meet regularly to advance the agency's accreditation goals. We have hired an Accreditation Coordinator, who will begin the end of August.

Accomplishments include:

- Domain leaders have been identified and are working on domain gap analysis projects.
- A quality improvement survey has been finalized and approved by the health district leadership team.
- An internal communications plan has been developed for providing staff with ongoing updates on the accreditation process.

Legislative Meetings and Laboratory Tour

State Senator Mo Dennis and Assemblyman Edgar Flores toured the Southern Nevada Public Health Laboratory. The tour of the facility highlighted the importance of the laboratory as a public health resource in the community, including the agency's surveillance and response capabilities during outbreaks and ability to identify public health hazards. A separate meeting was held with Senator Ruben Kihuen.

Legislative Planning

The health district leadership team and staff members have met with the lobbyist to review legislative issues and priorities for the upcoming legislative session.

Community Meetings

- Bob Coyle, Republic Services, Vice President, Public Affairs and Government Relations
- Tom Kovach, Executive Director, The Center
- John Burke, CEO, Instep Recovery Services - Meeting/Facility Tour
- Clark County Department of Air Quality