



DATE: August 22, 2019

TO: Southern Nevada District Board of Health Members

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

SUBJECT: Chief Health Officer Report

Measles Notification

On Aug. 15, 2019, the Southern Nevada Health District notified individuals and the public that they may have been exposed to a person who was confirmed to have a case of measles. Because measles can be highly contagious, the Health District advised people who may have been exposed to review their immunization status and contact their health care provider if they are not fully immunized against measles or have not already had the disease. This measles case was reported in a visitor.

Clinicians were advised to consider measles in patients of any age who have fever AND a rash regardless of their travel histories. A Public Health Advisory for health care providers with additional guidance is available on the Health District's [website](#).

From January 1 to August 8, 2019, the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) is reporting 1,182 confirmed cases of measles in 30 states. This is the greatest number of cases reported in the United States since 1992. More information on outbreaks occurring in the U.S. is available on the CDC [website](#).

Hepatitis A Outbreak

In June, the Health District declared an outbreak of acute hepatitis A in Clark County. Since November 2018, the Health District has reported 83 outbreak-associated cases of hepatitis A. In the past few years total cases reported have been significantly lower: 39 cases reported in 2018; 13 cases in 2017; and six reported cases in 2016. Of the reported cases, more than 92 percent were among those who used drugs (injection or non-injection), and 80 percent were among those experiencing homelessness. Weekly hepatitis A outbreaks and additional resources are available on the Health District's website at www.SNHD.info/hep-a-control.

Other risk factors for infection include:

- Men who have sex with men.
- People with chronic liver disease, including cirrhosis, hepatitis B, or hepatitis C.
- People who have an occupational risk for infection.
- People traveling to or working in countries where hepatitis A is common.

- People with direct contact with people who have hepatitis A.
- People with clotting-factor disorders.
- People working with nonhuman primates.
- People who are currently or were recently incarcerated.

Hepatitis A vaccination is the best prevention against the virus. Since the outbreak announcement, the Health District has administered 995 hepatitis A vaccinations to adults ages 18 and older. A total of 1,785 hepatitis A vaccinations have been administered to adults by all providers in Clark County.

The Health District continues to recommend that health care workers review their immunization history to ensure staff who may be caring for ill patients are up to date with their hepatitis A vaccinations.

Arbovirus Update

As of Aug. 13, 2019, the Health District has received reports of 19 cases of West Nile virus, with 11 cases having had the more serious neuroinvasive form of the illness. The Health District's Mosquito Surveillance Program has submitted more than 38,000 mosquitoes to the Southern Nevada Public Health Laboratory for testing. Mosquitoes have tested positive for West Nile virus in 40 unique ZIP codes and St. Louis encephalitis in 15 ZIP codes. Currently, more than 19 percent of mosquitoes submitted have tested positive this season, compared to last year when 0.1 percent tested positive, and 2017 when 2.8 percent tested positive.

The CDC reports as of August 6, a total of 36 states have reported West Nile virus infection in people, birds, or mosquitoes. There have been 128 cases of West Nile virus disease reported to the CDC as of this date. Of those cases, 89 (70 percent) were classified as neuroinvasive disease.

The Health District continues to remind the public that illnesses caused by West Nile virus and St. Louis encephalitis can be prevented. The most effective way to prevent disease is to avoid getting bitten by mosquitoes. Use an Environmental Protection Agency (EPA)-registered repellent, wear long-sleeved shirts, pants, and treat clothing and gear to control mosquitoes. The Health District also urges the public to eliminate breeding sources around their homes.

Health care providers should be vigilant for symptoms of these viruses and order appropriate testing when suspected. West Nile virus and St. Louis encephalitis are closely related, and both cause acute febrile illness and neurologic disease. There are commercially available laboratory tests for acute West Nile virus infection. All St. Louis encephalitis virus testing must be performed by a public health laboratory. More information and testing options are available on the Health District [Public Health Advisories website](#).

More information on the Health District's Mosquito Surveillance activities is available on its website at www.southernnevadahealthdistrict.org/programs/mosquito-surveillance/. For additional information and prevention tips visit the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention's website at www.cdc.gov/features/stopmosquitoes/index.html.

Community Meetings

Week of July 29

- Met with Julia Peek, DPBH, regarding ELC grant
- Participated in the Health Officers Association of California Board meeting
- Participated in the Nevada Health Authority Conference call
- Participated in the Health Officers Association of California Fall CME Planning Committee meeting

Week of July 22

- Participated in the Facilities Advisory Board meeting
- Met with Dirk Ravenholt regarding matters related to the Health District
- Participated in the Association of State and Territorial Health Officials (ASTHO)-NACCHO Joint Council teleconference

Week of July 15

- Participated in the NACCHO Finance Committee Monthly meeting
- Participated in the Nevada Association of Local Health Authorities meeting in Carson City, NV
- Participated in the Clark County Medical Society Delegate meeting
- Participated in the Nevada State Medical Association Public Health Commission meeting
- Participated in the Nevada Public Health Association Advocacy and Policy Committee Monthly call
- Met with Allison Combs from the Governor's office regarding various issues concerning the Health District and the State of Nevada, including the Public Health Improvement Fund and the PM Residency Program
- Held the first annual State of the Health District meeting for the public and Health District partners

Week of July 8

- Participated in the NACCHO Conference and Board meetings in Orlando, FL
- Participated in the BCHC meetings in Orlando, FL
- Participated in the 2019 National Association of Counties (NACo) Annual Conference in Las Vegas, NV

Week of July 1

- Met with BCHC/NACCHO Board members regarding upcoming conference
- Participated in Nevada Health Authority Conference call