



DATE: April 24, 2025

TO: Southern Nevada District Board of Health Members

FROM: Cassius Lockett, PhD, District Health Officer *CL*

SUBJECT: District Health Officer Report

Legislative Update

On Friday, April 4, the Senate Committee on Finance and Assembly Committee on Ways and Means, Subcommittees on Human Services held their budget closing hearing. Included in the budget was the \$15 million Public Health Improvements Budget, non-categorical funding that is allocated on a per capita basis. This fund preserves Senate Bill 118 funding (allocated during the 2023 legislative session) and is the only non-categorical funding allocated to public health agencies through the state.

As the Southern Nevada Health District, along with its state and local partners, continues to navigate the recent claw back of federal funds and the potential loss of additional funding, these non-categorical funds provide the agency with the flexibility to respond to emerging needs.

The budget bill will be sent to the full-money committees for final approval towards the end of the session.

Measles Update

On April 7, the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention issued a health advisory about the expanding measles outbreak to health care providers. The advisory states that between January 1 and April 4, 2025, has been notified of 607 confirmed cases in the United States. Most cases are occurring among unvaccinated children and adolescents, and three measles deaths have been reported this year; one in an unvaccinated adult in New Mexico and two in unvaccinated children in Texas.

The Southern Nevada Health District has plans in place to respond to measles cases in Clark County, as well as related exposures, and is working with its partners to ensure the community is prepared in the event a case or cases are identified. The last case of measles in a Clark County resident was reported in 2018, and the last reported exposure occurred in 2024.

The CDC and Health District recommend the MMR vaccination as the best protection against measles and its complications. For more information and to access the full CDC alert, go to <https://www.cdc.gov/han/2025/han00522.html#print>.

Community Health Assessment Meeting

The Southern Nevada Health District is accepting registrations for the Community Health Assessment (CHA) Prioritization Meeting, scheduled for Wednesday, April 30. The meeting will be held from 9 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. in the Red Rock Conference Room at the Health District's main facility, located at 280 S.

Decatur Blvd., Las Vegas, NV 89107. Virtual attendance via Microsoft Teams is also available. To register, go to tinyurl.com/2025CHAPriority.

The CHA provides an overview of the community's current health status and highlights available resources to improve health, based on data collection and analysis. The upcoming meeting will address key areas identified in the three core CHA assessments in Clark County:

- Community Partner Assessment
- Community Context Assessment
- Community Status Assessment

The goal of the prioritization meeting is to identify the top health issues in Southern Nevada for the next five years. These priorities will help drive sustainable improvements in health and quality of life for all community members, as outlined in the Community Health Improvement Plan (CHIP).

Each health issue will be measured by:

- Severity (how serious it is to the community)
- Effective Interventions (what interventions are available to improve health)
- Its importance (how important this issue is to Southern Nevada)

For more information on the CHA and CHIP process, go to [Phase 4: Identifying and prioritizing strategic issues - NACCHO](#). Additional information is available from the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention at [Community Planning for Health Assessment: CHA & CHIP | Public Health Gateway | CDC](#)

World TB Day

The Southern Nevada Health District called attention to the global impact of tuberculosis as it commemorated World TB Day on March 24. Across the globe, 1.25 million people died of TB and another 10.8 million became ill with the disease in 2023. While global efforts to combat TB have saved 79 million lives since 2000, the COVID-19 pandemic and other factors have reversed years of progress.

The United States has one of the lowest TB disease case rates in the world, but data indicate the number of TB disease cases nationwide grew from 8,300 cases in 2022 to 9,615 in 2023, a significant 15.8% increase. Nevada had 86 active cases of TB in 2023, up from 62 in 2022. In Clark County, there were 76 active TB cases in 2023 and 67 in 2024. Alarming, TB-associated deaths in Clark County nearly doubled, increasing from six in 2023 to 11 in 2024. With the theme, "Yes! We Can End TB: Commit, Invest, Deliver," World TB Day was a global call for hope, urgency and accountability in the fight against the planet's deadliest infectious disease.

TB is caused by the *Mycobacterium tuberculosis* bacterium, which can be spread through the air when infected individuals cough or speak. The bacteria usually attack the lungs but can attack any part of the body such as the brain, spine or kidney.

Not everyone infected with TB bacteria becomes sick. Most people will develop latent TB infection (LTBI), a condition where the bacteria lives in the body without making a person sick. However, in other people, especially those with weak immune systems and conditions like diabetes, the bacteria can cause active TB disease, which can be deadly if not identified and treated appropriately.

As the leading provider of TB services in Southern Nevada, the Health District's [Tuberculosis Treatment and Control Clinic](#) offers comprehensive care to ensure that people with active TB disease or LTBI are treated and that those exposed to someone with active TB disease are properly evaluated. For more information about World TB Day, visit [About World TB Day | World TB Day | CDC](#) or www.who.int/campaigns/world-tb-day/2025.

Diabetes Classes

The Health District continues to offer free diabetes self-management, education, and support classes in both English and Spanish, available in person and online. These classes are provided year-round by the Office of Chronic Disease Prevention and Health Promotion at the Main Public Health Center, located at 280 S. Decatur Blvd., Las Vegas, NV 89107. Led by trained health educators, the classes help participants learn how to manage their blood sugar, stay active, and make healthier food choices.

Registration is now open for upcoming in-person classes. English-language classes will be held on Thursdays, May 15 and 22, from 10 a.m. to noon. Spanish-language classes are scheduled for Tuesdays, April 15 and 22, from 2 to 4 p.m., and Mondays, May 12 and 19, from 10 a.m. to noon.

To register, call (702) 759-1270, email gethealthy@snhd.org or complete the [Diabetes Self-Management Interest Form](#). Registration for Spanish-language classes is available at the [Viva Saludable](#) website.

To learn more about diabetes resources in Southern Nevada, go to [Get Healthy Clark County | Local Diabetes Resources](#) or [Viva Saludable | Recursos locales para la diabetes](#). For information about additional classes, events and programs offered by the Health District, visit the [Get Healthy Clark County Community Calendar](#).

Influenza Surveillance

Influenza surveillance for Clark County, Nevada includes data collected from local acute care hospitals and other health care providers. In Clark County, as of March 22, 2025, for the 2024-2025 influenza season, 1,722 influenza-associated hospitalizations have been reported. Currently, there have been 82 deaths associated with influenza reported for the season. The percentage of emergency department and urgent care clinic visits for influenza-like illness (fever plus cough or sore throat) decreased from 4.5% during week 11 to 4.0% during week 12. Currently, Influenza A has been the predominant strain detected within the region. During week 12, 3.3% of outpatient visits reported nationally through the U.S. Outpatient Influenza-like Illness Surveillance Network (ILINet) were due to respiratory illness. This percentage exceeds the national baseline of 3.0%. Among 55 states/jurisdictions, the respiratory illness activity level in the state of Nevada is minimal.

The Southern Nevada Health District will continue to update the public on the progression of the influenza season and encourage influenza vaccination for all people 6 months of age and older without contraindications. Weekly flu surveillance updates are available on the Health District website at www.southernnevadahealthdistrict.org/news-info/statistics-surveillance-reports/influenza-surveillance/.

Community Meetings

Week ending 03/30:

Biweekly:

- Attended the CDC Response All-STLT Update call

Monthly:

- Participated in the individual Southern Nevada District Board of Health Agenda Review meeting with Commissioner Becker, MPT Gallo, Councilwoman Summers-Armstrong, Mayor Pro Tem Black, Councilwoman Larson, Scott Nielson, and May Hardy
- Participated in the Southern Nevada District Board of Health meeting
- Participated in the Local Health Official Monthly Engagement meeting facilitated by National Association of County and City Health Officials (NACCHO)

Quarterly:

- Participated in the Southern Nevada Health District Finance Committee meeting

Media/Interviews/Panelist/Presenter/Events:

- Interview with Mary Hynes (Review-Journal) regarding measles follow-up

Ad-hoc Meetings:

- Attended the Senate Committee on Health and Human Services – SB54, SB149, SB295, SB329
- Participated in the BCHC Members Call on COVID Rescissions

Week ending 03/23:

Biweekly:

- Participated in a meeting with the Epidemic Intelligence Services (EIS) Officer assigned to SNHD
- Participated in the BCHC Member Touch Base call
- Participated in the Legislative Working Group meeting

Monthly:

- Participated in the Southern Nevada Community Health Center Finance and Audit Committee meeting
- Participated in the Southern Nevada Community Health Center Governing Board meeting
- Participated in the Clark County Medical Society (CCMS) Board of Trustees meeting
- Participated in the individual Southern Nevada District Board of Health Agenda Review meeting with Commissioner Kirkpatrick

Media/Interviews/Panelist/Presenter/Events:

- Interview with Mary Hynes (Review-Journal) regarding measles

Professional Development/Conferences:

- Attended the Executive Orders & Public Health Implications webinar facilitated by ChangeLab Solutions

Week ending 03/16:

Biweekly:

- Attended the CDC Response All-STLT Update call
- Attended the SNHD Disparities Grant Bi-Weekly Status meeting

Monthly:

- Attended the NV Pathogen Science Team Monthly meeting
- Attended the BCHC FHIR Forum meeting

- Attended the Big Cities Health Coalition (BCHC) Monthly Member Call

Media/Interviews/Panelist/Presenter/Events:

- Interview with Grace Da Rocha (LV Sun) on new role as District Health Officer and plans/priorities for SNHD

Ad-hoc Meetings:

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

Week ending 03/09:

Biweekly:

- Participated in a meeting with the Epidemic Intelligence Services (EIS) Officer assigned to SNHD

Quarterly:

- Participated in a check-in call on the OT21-2103 grant with representatives from the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC)
- Presented at the State Board of Health meeting

Media/Interviews/Panelist/Presenter/Events:

- Interview with Anne Davis (KNPR State of Nevada) on plans and priorities for SNHD and introduction to the community

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 a meeting with Dr. Theresa Cullen, Pima County Public Health Director, on SNHD' hard reduction initiatives (Overdose education and naloxone distribution, Test Strip distribution, Linkage to Action, Public Health Vending Machines, and Southern Nevada Post Overdose Response Team)
- Participated in a meeting with representatives from OCHIN, a nonprofit leader in health care innovation
- Participated in a meeting with representatives from eClinicalWorks