



**DATE:** January 22, 2025

**TO:** Southern Nevada District Board of Health Members

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

**SUBJECT:** District Health Officer Report

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**Healthcare Associated Infections (HAI)**

The Southern Nevada Health District assumed primary responsibility for healthcare-associated infections (HAI) prevention and control activities in Clark County beginning January 1, 2026. This transition of responsibility from the Nevada Division of Public and Behavioral Health includes leading HAI investigations, responding to outbreaks occurring within licensed health care facilities, and supporting facilities in strengthening infection prevention and control (IPC) practices.

The Health District will respond to reports of HAIs, suspected clusters, and outbreaks in acute care, long-term care, and other medical facilities, including outpatient settings. The Health District's HAI team will also provide support using the Infection Control Assessment and Response (ICAR) framework, offering recommendations, training, and resources upon request.

This transition applies specifically to HAI oversight and does not change existing communicable disease reporting requirements. Licensed health care facilities must continue reporting all individual reportable diseases pursuant to NAC 441A, including clusters and outbreaks, and any condition identified by the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention as a nationally notifiable condition.

The Health District will provide additional information to state-licensed health care facilities included in this transition.

Health care providers can report HAI and other reportable conditions to the Health District:

- Online: <https://www.southernnevadahealthdistrict.org/news-info/reportable-diseases/reportable-diseases-form/>
- Fax: 702-759-1444
- Call: 702-759-1300

Questions, requests for recommendations, consultations, or training may be directed to [HAI@snhd.org](mailto:HAI@snhd.org).

**Diabetes Classes**

The Health District has rolled out a new schedule of free diabetes self-management, education and support classes offered in English, Spanish, in-person and online. The classes are available starting Jan. 21.

Diabetes continues to affect a growing share of the population at the local, state and national levels. In Clark County, 12.8% of adults—about 238,000 people—had diabetes in 2023. Statewide in 2024, an estimated 13.5% of adults, or 345,700 Nevadans, were diagnosed with the disease. Nationally, more than 41 million Americans are living with diabetes, including 11.7 million who do not know they have it. About 1.2 million people are newly diagnosed each year.

The American Diabetes Association estimates that 816,000 Nevadans are living with prediabetes, a condition that raises the risk of developing type 2 diabetes, heart disease and stroke. Adults who experience food insecurity face a significantly higher risk of developing type 2 diabetes, often because limited resources force them to rely on lower-cost foods that are high in calories and lower in nutritional value.

The Health District's Office of Chronic Disease Prevention and Health Promotion provides free diabetes self-management classes online and in-person. Led by trained health educators, the classes are recognized by the American Diabetes Association for meeting national standards in diabetes self-management education.

The Health District is currently accepting registrations for the following classes:

#### **In-person classes**

Main Public Health Center, 280 S. Decatur Blvd., Las Vegas, NV 89107

##### English:

Wednesday, Jan. 21 and 28, from 2 to 4 p.m.

##### Spanish:

Thursday, Jan. 22 and 29, from 10 a.m. to noon

#### **Virtual classes (Microsoft Teams)**

##### English:

Thursday, Jan. 22, 29 and Feb. 5, from 10 a.m. to noon

Additional classes are scheduled through mid-May. More information is available from the [Get Healthy Clark County Community Calendar](#). To register for classes, call (702) 759-1270, email [gethealthy@snhd.org](mailto:gethealthy@snhd.org) or complete the [Diabetes Self-Management Class Interest Form](#). Registration for Spanish-language classes is available on the [Viva Saludable](#) website. More information about the classes is available in the [Diabetes Self-Management Classes video](#).

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](#).

#### **Measles Update**

In December, the Health District reported a confirmed case of measles in an out-of-state visitor to Clark County. Public health officials identified a potential exposure window during the early morning hours of December 13, from 12:30 to 2:30 a.m., at Harry Reid International Airport.

The individual spent time near the D Gates, specifically Gate D1, for a flight arriving around midnight. Due to the nature of airport travel and passenger movement, anyone who was in the D Gates area during this timeframe may have been exposed. The individual departed Las Vegas later the same day via private transportation.

Because measles is one of the most contagious respiratory diseases, the Health District urged people who may have been near the D Gates during that time, or who may have had contact with the individual while at the airport, to review their immunization records promptly. Anyone who was not fully vaccinated against measles or had not previously had the disease was encouraged to contact their health care provider for further guidance. No additional measles cases were reported as a result of this potential exposure.

The measles virus can remain in the air for up to two hours after an infected person has left an area, meaning exposure can occur even without direct contact. Measles symptoms can develop within seven to 21 days after exposure. Anyone who may have been exposed is advised to monitor for symptoms and contact a health care provider if they develop a rash with fever or other symptoms consistent with measles. People experiencing symptoms should stay home, avoid public places and contact with others, and call ahead before visiting a health care facility so providers can take precautions to prevent further exposure.

The measles, mumps, and rubella (MMR) vaccine is safe and highly effective in preventing illness. Two doses provide approximately 97% protection against measles. Staying up to date on recommended vaccinations is the best way to protect individuals, families, and the community from outbreaks of preventable diseases.

The Health District reported the first confirmed measles case in a Clark County resident since 2018 in November. An additional confirmed case in a visitor was reported in October. Measles cases and outbreaks continue to be reported across the United States, underscoring the importance of vaccination and rapid public health response.

For more information about measles and MMR vaccine, visit the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention's website at [www.cdc.gov/measles](http://www.cdc.gov/measles). To make a vaccination appointment at a Health District clinic, visit [www.snhd.info/immunizations](http://www.snhd.info/immunizations).

### **Influenza Update**

As of December 27, 276 influenza-associated hospitalizations and two deaths have been reported in Clark County. The percentage of emergency department and urgent care visits for influenza-like illness (ILI—defined as a fever of 100°F or greater and a cough and/or sore throat) increased from 3.1% in week 51 to 4.7% in week 52.

Influenza A has been the predominant influenza type detected among hospitalized cases in Clark County. During week 52, 8.2% of outpatient visits reported nationally through the U.S. Outpatient Influenza-like Illness Surveillance Network (ILINet) were due to respiratory illness, including ILI. This percentage is above the national baseline of 3.1% for the fourth consecutive week.

The Health District's Influenza Snapshot and Influenza Report by Age Group are available weekly at [www.southernnevadahealthdistrict.org/news-info/statistics-surveillance-reports/influenza-surveillance/](http://www.southernnevadahealthdistrict.org/news-info/statistics-surveillance-reports/influenza-surveillance/).

### **Respiratory Disease Dashboard**

The Southern Nevada Health District has launched a new Respiratory Disease Dashboard, a user-friendly online tool that brings together up-to-date data on flu, COVID-19 and respiratory syncytial virus (RSV) in Clark County.

Available on the on the Health District's website at [www.southernnevadahealthdistrict.org/news-info/statistics-surveillance-reports/](http://www.southernnevadahealthdistrict.org/news-info/statistics-surveillance-reports/), the dashboard allows the public, health care providers, and community partners to track immunization trends, hospitalizations, impacts by age group, geography and other demographics. By offering a combined view of the three major seasonal respiratory illnesses, the tool is designed to improve transparency, support timely decision-making, and enhance awareness of viruses circulating in the community.

This integrated dashboard supports timely monitoring so providers, schools, workplaces and households can stay alert to rising trends, practice prevention and seek care when needed. Publicly available data also help the Health District and community partners coordinate preparedness efforts, inform vaccine and treatment campaigns, and respond proactively.

### **World AIDS Day**

The Health District joined community partners to mark World AIDS Day on Monday, Dec. 1, a global day of unity and remembrance for people affected by HIV. In 2024, an estimated 41 million people worldwide were living with HIV, up from 39.9 million the previous year. In the United States, about 1.2 million people are living with HIV, and approximately 13% remain unaware of their infection and need testing. Locally, more than 12,000 Clark County residents are living with HIV, with 552 new diagnoses in 2024—an increase from 508 in 2023.

The 2025 World AIDS Day theme, *“Overcoming Disruption, Transforming the AIDS Response,”* highlighted how funding cuts have challenged HIV programs while recognizing the determination of communities leading the way forward.

### **World AIDS Day Activities**

The Health District co-hosted the Last Sunday's Arts Festival & Fundraiser with the Obodo Collective Urban Garden, Sigma Gamma Rho, and Poetic Gems at the Obodo Community Garden, 1300 C St., Las Vegas, NV 89106, on the Historic Westside. The Health District offered no-cost HIV testing and resources, including information about PrEP. The event also featured line dancing, local performers, vendors, and an art auction.

Additional activities included:

- The Southern Nevada Health Consortium's Human Red Ribbon and reading of names of people lost to HIV
- Aid for AIDS of Nevada (AFAN) lighting the “Welcome to Las Vegas” sign in red
- Free HIV testing, flu shots, and swag bags at the Henderson Equality Center
- World AIDS Day Trivia sponsored by The Center, Sin City Sisters, ViiV Healthcare, and The Consortium
- Level Up rapid HIV and HCV screening, giveaways, and PrEP services sponsored by ASP Cares, Safe Harbor Medical, and TracB Exchange

In addition to public events, partner organizations hosted invitation-only observances, including The Center's World AIDS Day Awards Dinner and the Legacy Awards Luncheon at the Community Counseling Center.

Year-round HIV testing is readily available in Southern Nevada:

- The Health District offers express no-cost testing from 7:30 a.m. to 4 p.m., Monday through Thursday, at the Southern Nevada Health District Main Public Health Center, 280 S. Decatur Blvd., Las Vegas, NV 89107. No-cost express testing is also available Fridays from 7:30 a.m. to 4 p.m. at the Fremont Public Health Center, 2830 E. Fremont St., Las Vegas, NV 89104. No appointments are required; clients must be asymptomatic.

- No-cost HIV testing is available at the Arleen Cooper Community Health Center at The Center, 401 S. Maryland Parkway, Las Vegas, NV 89101. Hours are 9 a.m. to 5:30 p.m. Monday through Thursday and 9 a.m. to 2 p.m. Fridays and Saturdays. Appointments are preferred; walk-ins are accepted.
- The Community Counseling Center offers HIV testing and education and provides gift cards to individuals who complete testing. For more information, call 702-369-8700, ext. 279, or visit [cccofsn.org](http://cccofsn.org).
- The Health District's Collect2Protect program offers free at-home HIV test kits, which can be requested through the Collect2Protect webpage.

Same-day HIV testing and treatment services are also available at the Southern Nevada Community Health Center and the Fremont Public Health Center. Services include medical care, behavioral health, nutrition, case management, pharmacy services, and education. PEP and PrEP navigation and treatment are available for individuals who test negative. Services are offered to insured and uninsured patients, with sliding fee scale discounts available for those who qualify.

For more information on World AIDS Day and the global response to HIV, visit [World AIDS Day](#).

### **Community Meetings**

#### **Week ending 12/28:**

##### **Monthly:**

- Participated in the Disease Surveillance & Control Division leadership meeting

#### **Week ending 12/21:**

##### **Biweekly:**

- Facilitated one-on-one meetings with Direct Reports (Gonzales, Mangla, Melly)
- Attended the SNHD/Accela Executive Touchpoint call

##### **Monthly:**

- Participated in the NPHA Coordination Call
- Attended the TECCA RCE Monthly Informational Call

##### **Ad-hoc Meetings:**

- Participated in the 457b Plan Committee meeting
- Participated in an introductory meeting with the two new EIS interns
- Participated in a meeting with Dr. Saloman Amar, Touro University, regarding wastewater surveillance
- Participated in a meeting regarding the NTCSC Tobacco Tax Proposal
- Participated in a meeting regarding a budget augmentation
- Participated in a meeting with Bradley Mayer regarding legislative policy ideas
- Participated in a site visit at Child Haven

#### **Week ending 12/14:**

##### **Biweekly:**

- Facilitated the Health Executive Council meeting
- Facilitated one-on-one meetings with Direct Reports (Saxton, Trujillo)
- Participated in the EIS Bi-weekly Check-in meeting

Monthly:

- Participated in the Southern Nevada Community Health Center Governing Board meeting

Bi-monthly:

- Participated in the Informatics Department leadership meeting

Media/Interviews/Panelist/Presenter/Events:

- Attended the Nevada Digital Government Summit

Ad-hoc Meetings:

- Participated in an introductory meeting with representatives from Vituity
- Participated in a Vaccine Policy Discussion
- Participated in a meeting at the City of Henderson regarding Street Medicine and Henderson Homeless Response

**Week ending 12/07:**

Biweekly:

- Facilitated one-on-one meetings with Direct Reports (Smith, Yapjoco)

Monthly:

- Participated in the Monthly Leadership Finance meeting

Quarterly:

- Participated in the Environmental Health Division leadership meeting

Professional Development/Conferences:

- Attended the EIS Supervisor Seminar: Abstract CAL, EIS Summit Abstracts, Epi Analysis CAL

Media/Interviews/Panelist/Presenter/Events:

- Attended the UMC event with Dr. David Smith, Acting Principal Deputy Assistant Secretary of War for Health Affairs and Acting Director, Defense Health Agency

Ad-hoc Meetings:

- Participated in a meeting with UNR School of Public Health
- Participated in a Site Visit at the River Mountains Water Treatment Facility
- Participated in a meeting with the Pharmacy and Finance Departments

**Week ending 11/30:**

Biweekly:

- Facilitated the EIS check-in meeting

Monthly:

- Participated in the Disease Surveillance & Control Division leadership meeting

Ad-hoc Meetings:

- Participated in a meeting with Clark County regarding mosquito abatement
- Participated in a meeting regarding legionella in healthcare settings
- Facilitated an exit meeting with the two EIS interns, at the end of their assignment

**Week ending 11/23:**Biweekly:

- Facilitated one-on-one meetings with Direct Reports (Gonzales, Mangla, Smith, Trujillo)

Monthly:

- Participated in the individual Southern Nevada District Board of Health Agenda Review meetings with Councilwoman Brune, Mayor Pro Tem Gallo, Commissioner Kirkpatrick, Commissioner Becker, Bobbette Bond, Councilwoman Larson, Scott Nielson, Mayor Hardy
- Participated in the NPHA Coordination Call
- Attended the TECCA RCE Monthly Informational Call
- Participated in the Southern Nevada Community Health Center Governing Board meeting
- Participated in the Southern Nevada District Board of Health meeting

Quarterly:

- Participated in the Finance Committee meeting

Ad-hoc Meetings:

- Participated in a meeting regarding the parking lot at the Decatur Facility

**Week ending 11/16:**Biweekly:

- Facilitated one-on-one meetings with Direct Reports (Anderson-Fintak, Saxton, Trujillo, Zhang)
- Attended the SNHD/Accela Executive Touchpoint call

Monthly:

- Participated in the individual Southern Nevada District Board of Health Agenda Review meetings with Mayor Pro Tem Scott Black
- Participated in the BCHC Monthly Member meeting

Bi-monthly:

- Participated in the Leadership/Managers Meeting

Ad-hoc Meetings:

- Attended the New Hire Orientation
- Participated in a meeting regarding Title X and SHOPP services
- Attended a meeting regarding Wastewater Monitoring
- Participated in a meeting regarding Public Health Policy
- Attended the F1 Las Vegas Grand Prix Site Walk
- Facilitated a meeting with Leslie Dauphin (Meharry Medical College)

**Week ending 11/09:**Biweekly:

- Facilitated one-on-one meetings with Direct Reports (Gonzales, Smith, Trujillo, Yapjoco)

Monthly:

- Participated in the Monthly Leadership Finance meeting

Media/Interviews/Panelist/Presenter/Events:

- Opening/Closing Remarks at the Managers' Conference

Ad-hoc Meetings:

- Participated in a meeting regarding the Vital Records Department