



DATE: January 25, 2024

TO: Southern Nevada District Board of Health Members

FROM: Fermin Leguen, MD, MPH, District Health Officer *FL*

SUBJECT: District Health Officer Report

Tuberculosis Investigations Update

In December, the Southern Nevada Health District began working with the Clark County School District on a tuberculosis investigation involving a person with active TB disease who was on 26 school district campuses and one training site before they were aware of their diagnosis and while they had the potential to spread the disease to others. Based on the Health District's preliminary investigation, the patient had minimal close contact with people at most of the campuses where they were present. However, students and staff at Ruthe Deskin Elementary School were identified as having potential TB exposure. Notifications are being conducted for all individuals identified as close contacts of the patient. The investigation is ongoing and additional notifications, screenings and testing will occur as appropriate.

The Health District is emphasizing that not everyone who may have been exposed will be infected and not everyone who is infected with TB has active disease. TB screening and testing are provided to identify cases of latent TB infection. People who have latent TB infection have no signs and symptoms of the disease, they are not sick and cannot spread the disease to others. Active TB disease is a serious disease. However, the Health District is emphasizing that not everyone who may have been exposed will be infected and not everyone who is infected with TB has active disease. TB screening and testing are provided to identify cases of latent TB infection. People who have latent TB infection have no signs or symptoms of the disease. They are not sick and cannot spread the disease to others.

The Health District is committed to conducting immediate and thorough investigations of all known active TB cases as they are reported, with the goal of identifying individuals at risk of exposure. The Health District offers treatment for those people who are exposed and found to have a TB infection to prevent the development of active TB disease and avoid future exposures to TB cases in the community.

The Health District activated its Information Line for people who may have additional questions about the investigation. It's available Monday through Friday from 8 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. by calling (702) 759-INFO (4636) or (866) 767-5038.

Influenza Season

Influenza surveillance in Clark County includes data collected from local acute care hospitals and other health care providers. In Clark County, as of December 30, 2023, there have been 294 influenza-associated hospitalizations and 13 deaths reported. The percentage of emergency department visits and urgent care clinic visits for influenza-like illness (ILI) decreased from 10.5% in week 51 to 9.2% in week 52. Influenza A has been the dominant type circulating. Of the patients reported through the U.S. Outpatient Influenza-like Illness Surveillance Network (ILINet), 6.9% were due to respiratory illness that included ILI. This percentage was above the national baseline of 2.9%. Among 55 states and jurisdictions, the respiratory illness activity level in the state of Nevada is very high.

In keeping with CDC guidelines, the Health District strongly recommends everyone 6 months of age and older get the vaccine. It is especially important for those at higher risk of developing serious complications from the flu, including people 65 years of age and older, as well as those with underlying medical conditions. It is also important to protect people more likely to be exposed to both flu and COVID-19, including health care workers. The CDC recently updated its estimates of flu burden prevented by vaccination for the past flu season. Based on its preliminary estimates along with vaccine coverage and vaccine effectiveness data, CDC estimates that 6 million flu-related illnesses, 2.9 million flu-related health care visits, 65,000 flu-related hospitalizations and 2,700 flu-related deaths were prevented by flu vaccination. More information about updated flu burden estimates is available on the CDC [website](#).

Flu surveillance in Clark County for the 2023-2024 influenza season begins October 1 and runs through May 18. The weekly Influenza Surveillance Snapshot and Influenza Report by Age Group is available on SNHD's [website](#).

World AIDS Day

The Health District joined with community partners in observing World AIDS Day on Friday, December 1, a day of solidarity for those affected by HIV. More than 32 million people have died worldwide from AIDS-related illness. In Clark County, more than 11,000 people are living with HIV and 488 were newly diagnosed in 2022.

On World AIDS Day, the Health District offered free, rapid HIV testing at its Fremont Public Health Center, 2380 E. Fremont St., Las Vegas, NV 89104, and information about pre-exposure prophylaxis (PrEP). Express Testing is also regularly available Monday – Thursday from 8 a.m. – 4:30 p.m. (closed noon – 1 p.m.) at the Health District's Southern Nevada Community Health Center Sexual Health Clinic, 280 S. Decatur Blvd., Las Vegas, NV 89107. Testing at this location is for those who are asymptomatic and would like to know their HIV status.

The Health District also offers rapid HIV testing options including home HIV test kits. The [Collect2Protect](#) program allows users to conveniently and privately order an at-home HIV test kit at no cost and get their results at home. Test kits for chlamydia and gonorrhea are also available for a fee.

Area residents were also invited to collectively create a community AIDS quilt on December 1 from at The Center, 401 S. Maryland Parkway, Las Vegas, 89101. This event featured music, food and free HIV testing. Also on the 1st, the AIDS Healthcare Foundation provided free HIV testing at Entourage

Spa & Health Club, 953 E. Sahara Ave., Las Vegas, NV 89104, and a reception was held at Community Counseling Center, 714 E. Sahara Ave., Las Vegas, NV 89104.

Partner activities and observances included:

Thursday, November 30

- Free rapid testing at the Southern Nevada Community Health Center Sexual Health Clinic, 280 S. Decatur Blvd., Las Vegas, NV 89107.
- Aid for AIDS of Nevada (AFAN) “Turning the Sign Red” event at the Welcome to Las Vegas sign.

Saturday, December 2

- People wearing red shirts formrf a “human AIDS ribbon” on the south side of the Commercial Center, 900 E. Liberace Ave., Las Vegas, NV 89109.

Sunday, December 3

- The 35th Annual Ribbon of Life Holiday Spectacular held at the Tropicana Las Vegas, 3801 Las Vegas Blvd. S., Las Vegas, NV 89109. Sponsored by Golden Rainbow, this event supports people who are impacted by HIV/AIDS by providing emergency assistance, education, financial aid and affordable housing in a safe and inclusive environment.

For more information on World AIDS Day, visit the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention website at [World AIDS Day | CDC](#).

Mpox Update

In November, the Health District received reports of seven new cases of mpox in Clark County residents during October. These were the first additional case reports received since the end of August. As of November 7, 2023, the total number of mpox cases reported by the Health District was 304. As of January 9, 2024, the Health District is reporting 310 cases.

The Health District continues to promote and strongly encourage mpox vaccinations for people who are eligible, including those who have had contact with someone who has mpox. The readily available two-dose series vaccine is safe and effective at lowering the risk of getting mpox as well as the severity of symptoms if people do get sick. The vaccine can also help prevent mpox if given within 14 days after exposure. Those eligible to get the vaccine include:

- Gay, bisexual, and other men who have sex with men, transgender or nonbinary people who in the past 6 months have had one of the following:
 - A new diagnosis of one or more sexually transmitted diseases.
 - More than one sex partner.
 - Sex at a commercial sex venue.
 - Sex in association with a large public event in a geographic area where mpox transmission is occurring.
- Sexual partners of people with the risks described above.
- People who anticipate experiencing any of the above.
- People who had close physical contact with someone known or suspected of having mpox in the last 14 days (could include a sexual partner or someone in the household).
- People who have been informed by the Health District that they are a close contact of someone with mpox.

In Clark County, a total of 11,497 mpox vaccines have been administered. Those who have received their first dose of the vaccine should get their second dose 28 days later or as soon as possible if it is past 28 days to receive the maximum protection the vaccine can provide. Health District and community clinic location information is available at www.snhd.info/monkeypox.

Community Meetings

Week ending 11/05:

Bi-weekly (every two weeks):

- Attended the mpox briefing facilitated by the HHS Office of Intergovernmental and External Affairs (IEA)

Professional Development/Conferences:

- Attended the “Operational Site Visit (OSV) Preparation” webinar facilitated by HRSA

Ad-hoc Meetings:

- Attended the Strategic Planning 90-day Action Planning/Goal Setting Session

Week ending 11/12:

Monthly:

- Participated in the individual Southern Nevada District Board of Health Agenda Review meeting with Commissioner Kirkpatrick, Mayor Pro Tem Black, Scott Nielson, Commissioner Segerblom, Councilwoman Gallo, Mayor Hardy, and Councilman Seebock,

Quarterly:

- Nevada Primary Care Association (NVPCA) Finance Committee meeting

Media/Interviews/Panelist/Presenter/Events:

- Participated in a Panel Discussion at the African Caribbean Community Health Fair

Professional Development/Conferences:

- Attended the “Open Enrollment 11 & Medicaid Renewals: What Health Centers Need to Know” webinar facilitated by the National Association of Community Health Centers (NACHC)
- Attended the “Activating Health Professionals to Lead Climate Action,” presented by the National Academy of Medicine, Institute for Healthcare Improvement, Health Care Without Harm, and Practice Greenhealth

Ad-hoc Meetings:

- Participated in a meeting with Huron Consulting regarding the Health District’s Strategic Plan
- Attended the Clark County Ryan White Community Forum

Week ending 11/19:

Monthly:

- Participated in the Southern Nevada District Board of Health meeting
- Participated in the Nevada Primary Care Association (NVPCA) Board of Directors meeting

Professional Development/Conferences:

- Attended the “American Public Health Association (APHA) 2023 Annual Meeting & Expo”
- Attended the “Nevada’s Evolving Opioid Crisis: Update on Nevada Laws Surrounding Prescribing Controlled Substances” webinar facilitated by the Clark County Medical Society

Week ending 11/26:

Monthly:

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

Professional Development/Conferences:

- Attended the “Revolutionize Your CHC Leadership: Master the Tools of Change for Lasting Improvement” webinar facilitated by Higgins Botham
- Attended the “Academic-Public Health Partnerships: Navigating Collaborations to Advance HIV/AIDS Public Health Programming and Research” webinar facilitated by the Research Alliance In

Implementation Science to End HIV (RAISE) and National Alliance of State & Territorial AIDS Directors (NASTAD)

- Attended the “How to Have an Effective One-on-One” webinar facilitated by GovLoop

Week ending 12/03:

Quarterly:

- Participated in the State Board of Health meeting

Professional Development/Conferences:

- Attended the “How to Empower People, Strategy, and Technology for the Agency of the Future” webinar
- Attended the “Health Center Needs Assessments 101: What They Are and How to Conduct Them” webinar facilitated by National Association of Community Health Centers (NACHC)

Ad-hoc Meetings:

- Participated in a meeting with Father Rafael Pereira at the All Saints Episcopal Church
- Participated in a meeting with Dr. Jerry Reeves (Comagine Health and HealthIE Nevada) regarding pediatric services
- Participated in a call with Shenika Robinson, Public Health Analyst at the Bureau of Primary Health Care, regarding a change to the Project Director in the Southern Nevada Community Health Center

Week ending 12/10:

Bi-weekly (every two weeks):

- Attended the Mpox Briefing facilitated by the HHS Office of Intergovernmental and External Affairs (IEA)

Monthly:

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

Bi-monthly (every two months):

- Participated in the Medical Advisory Board meeting

Media/Interviews/Panelist/Presenter/Events:

- Participated in a Healthcare Roundtable facilitated by the Nevada Business Magazine

Professional Development/Conferences:

- Attended the “Confronting Workforce Shortages and Health Worker Well-Being: Harnessing Lessons from Rural Health Settings” webinar facilitated by National Academy of Medicine (NAM)

Week ending 12/17:

Media/Interviews/Panelist/Presenter/Events:

- Attended the Outreach Tuesday Event at the All Saints Episcopal Church

Professional Development/Conferences:

- Attended the “2023 UDS Annual Training” webinar facilitated by the Nevada Primary Care Association (NVPCA)
- Attended the “2023 Nevada Digital Government Summit” hosted by Government Technology

Ad-hoc Meetings:

- Participated in a meeting with Local Health Authorities regarding SB118
- Participated in a meeting with Tami Bruno (Catholic Charities), Carisa Ramirez-Lopez, Robin Brown, Betsi Alvarado, Bemnet Kebede (Catholic Charities of Southern Nevada), and Milan Devatek (ECDC – African Community Center) regarding refugee services

Week ending 12/24:

Weekly:

- Participated in the Super Bowl Meeting (County Departments, Partner Agencies, and Representatives from the Super Bowl Host Committee)

Monthly:

- Participated in the Southern Nevada Community Health Center Governing Board meeting
- Participated in the Clark County Medical Society Board of Trustees meeting
- Participated in the Big Cities Health Coalition (BCHC) call

Ad-hoc Meetings:

- Participated in the LVBAC Meeting

Week ending 12/31:

N/A