



Memorandum

Date: January 25, 2023

To: Southern Nevada District Board of Health

From: **Michael Johnson, PhD, Director of Community Health** *MJA. on behalf of MJ.*
Cassius Lockett, PhD, Deputy District Health Officer-Operations *CL*
Fermin Leguen, MD, MPH, District Health Officer *FL*

Subject: Community Health Division Monthly Activity Report – December 2023

I. OFFICE OF CHRONIC DISEASE PREVENTION & HEALTH PROMOTION (OCDPHP)

A. Chronic Disease Prevention Program (CDPP)

The CDPP is sponsoring Greater Youth Sports Association's School Sports Solutions Program (SSSP). The SSSP brings affordable after-school youth sports to under-resourced elementary schools, providing thousands of youth, the opportunity to participate in organized sports. The program also provides homework and tutoring support and character development lessons. The fall track and field season wrapped up in November with over 200 3rd – 5th graders participating in the season-ending track meet. The fall flag football season also kicked off in November.

Our CDPP staff sponsored the Breastfeeding Symposium hosted by the Southern Nevada Breastfeeding Coalition in November. Representatives from the National Association of City and County Health Officials (NACCHO) gave the keynote address. Other information and resources were available to support breast/chest feeding in our community. Over 35 people attended the symposium.

CDPP attended the African Caribbean Festival Health Fair in November. The CDPP team provided free blood pressure screenings, education, and referral to over 30 attendees. The team also provided other chronic disease prevention and self-management education and resources to attendees.

The CDPP team facilitated the second component of the Diabetes Self-Management, Education & Support (DSMES) class that began in October 2023 at the YMCA. In total, 21 people attended at least one (1) session of the DSMES class.

B. Tobacco Control Program (TCP)

The SNHD Tobacco Control Program's staff continued recruiting athletic coaches to partner with BreakDown (CDPHP's high school vaping prevention program) during the winter athletic season, providing 11 coaches with educational information about vaping prevention this month.

In November, four (4) educational outreach opportunities in schools were completed to prevent the initiation of electronic vapor products as part of the BreakDown Lunch Takeover tour. To date, 25 youth-focused branding counter marketing events have occurred in schools and community venues.

The TCP continues to work closely with Communities in Schools to reach at-risk youth with vaping prevention education and encourage Social and Emotional Learning (SEL) approaches in schools. Additionally, staff developed a mailer to promote SEL based approaches to vaping prevention through SNHD's teen vaping prevention initiative, BreakDown. This mailer was delivered to all CCSD high school principals, assistant principals, student council advisors, and athletic directors in November.

The TCP team participated in a Dia de Los Muertos event hosted by the City of Las Vegas on November 2nd at the Sammy Davis Jr. Festival Plaza. The event promoted Latino culture through dance, music, art and ofrendas. Staff participated in the ofrenda contest and won first place. The Ofrenda honored grandparents that have passed away and included traditional and meaningful elements. Culturally and linguistically appropriate cessation resources were distributed to promote a smoke-free lifestyle. The outdoor event was smoke and vape-free. The event reached over 3,000+ attendees with a majority being Spanish speakers.

Our staff also promoted the Because We Matter (African American focused) initiative to four (4) faith-based partners. The outreach series educates youth and adults about flavored tobacco products, including menthol use; informs on policy change solutions; promote cessation resources; and raise awareness of associated harms to the health of the Black community. This month's activities reached over 450 individuals in person.

Recent findings from the CDC's BRFSS report show that Nevada smoking rates decreased by 38.9% from 2011 - 2018. This places Nevada in the top ten states nationwide with the greatest decline in smoking rates, despite being ranked 47th of 48 states in tobacco prevention funding. In fact, every state ranked above Nevada has comprehensive smoke-free laws for workplaces and outspends Nevada by millions in tobacco control funding.

II. OFFICE OF EMERGENCY MEDICAL SERVICES & TRAUMA SYSTEM (OEMSTS)

A. Drug /Device/Protocol Committee (DDP)

The DDP Committee assists the OEMSTS, the Medical Advisory Board (MAB), and the QI Directors Committee in researching, developing, and editing new and existing protocols. Members include volunteer representatives from permitted agencies, receiving hospitals, and

individuals involved with the training of EMS professionals. The DDP continued working on proposed revisions to the Clark County EMS Emergency Medical Care Protocols.

DDP elected Dr. Kelly Morgan as the 2024 Chair, and Dr. Jessica LeDuc as the 2024 Co-Chair. The committee continued its work on proposed revisions to the Clark County EMS Emergency Medical Care Protocols.

B. Medical Advisory Board (MAB)

The primary mission of the MAB is to support the District Health Officer’s role to ensure quality patient care within the EMS system by making recommendations and assisting in the ongoing design, operation, and evaluation of the EMS system from initial patient access to definitive patient care. The members include: 1) One medical director of each firefighting/franchised agency; 2) One operational director of each firefighting/franchised agency; 3) Chairman of the Regional Trauma Advisory Board; and 4) An employee of SNHD whose duties relate to the administration and enforcement of EMS Regulations as an ex-officio member.

The MAB elected Dr. Michael Holtz as the 2024 Chair, and Dr. Kelly Morgan as the 2024 Co-Chair. The Board heard the report from the Drug/Device/Protocol sub-committee.

C. OEMSTS – December 2022 / 2023 Data

December EMS Statistics	December 2022	December 2023	
Total certificates issued	74	105	↑
New licenses issued	68	101	↑
Renewal licenses issued (recert only)	0	2	↑
Driver Only	37	30	↑
Active Certifications: EMT	947	830	↓
Active Certifications: Advanced EMT	1853	1630	↑
Active Certifications: Paramedic	2043	1895	↑
Active Certifications: RN	71	63	↑

III. OFFICE OF PUBLIC HEALTH PREPAREDNESS (OPHP)

A. Planning and Preparedness

1. Persistence to draft the Shelter Support Annex and Administrative Preparedness Annex.
2. Planners continue to review and revise CHEMPACK, Nuclear and Radiation, Administrative Preparedness, Mass Care Support, and Highly Infectious Disease plans.
3. Planner updates to Threat Response Guides for Anthrax, Plague, and Tularemia.

4. Reviewed and made revisions to COVID-19 AAR according to SWOT analysis and interviews completed by contractor and interns.
5. Planner invites for Closed POD Seminar in February 2024.
6. Eleven SNHD employees were fit tested for personal protective equipment.
7. Nine SNHD employees participated in CPR Training.
8. Twelve SNHD employees/partners participated in ICS.

B. Training, Exercises and Public Health Workforce Development:

1. The SNHPC Clinical Advisor and OPHP Planner reviewed and revised the Pediatric Surge Annex SNHPC Plan.
2. OPHP Trainers continue to develop Position Specific Task Books and related training curricula. Revised the PHP New Hire Orientation & Annual ICS/Planning P/Forms training. Perpetual updates to POD training for October FSE.
3. Assisted where needed in the current ICS for TB outbreak.
4. Planning efforts are being coordinated for the upcoming recovery workshop.
5. Pediatric Surge Tabletop midterm planning meeting scheduled for January 4th.
6. Pediatric Surge Tabletop 1 scheduled for March 13th.
7. Pediatric Tabletop 2/MRSE scheduled for April 18th.

C. Southern Nevada Healthcare Preparedness Coalition (SNHPC)

1. The SNHPC bimonthly meeting is scheduled for January 4th.
2. SNHPC Clinical Advisor and Readiness and Response Coordinator planned and completed the review of two (2) hospital emergency operations plans.
3. Our SNHPC Clinical Advisor provided support to ongoing planning for the Superbowl 2024 response.
4. The SNHPC Clinical Advisor and OPHP Planner reviewed and revised the Pediatric Surge Annex.
5. SNHPC Clinical Advisor and OPHP Planner continued planning for March 2024 Pediatric Surge tabletop and medical response surge exercise.
6. Empower de-identified data requested, received, and displayed on GIS map. The map was uploaded to CAT.

D. Fusion Center Public Health Analyst:

1. Our Public Health Analyst continues to provide support to the Southern Nevada Counterterrorism Center and assist in the development of special event assessments.

E. Grants and Administration:

1. Our OPHP team is awaiting carryover subawards for all grants and an amendment to the CRI budget.

F. Medical Reserve Corps (MRC) of Southern Nevada:

1. One (1) MRC Volunteer supported the North Las Vegas Fire at a community outreach event December 2nd.
2. The MRC Coordinator planned training and activities for upcoming months, sent out newsletters, and continues to recruit and deactivate volunteers.
3. Our MRC Coordinator attended monthly NACCHO MRC Workgroup meeting.

MRC Volunteer Hours FY2024 Q2

(Economic impact rates updated August 2023):

Activity	October	November	December
Preparedness Exercise	81	0	0
Community Event/BP	0	21	5
SNHD Clinic	4.5	0	0
Total Hours	85.5	21	5
Economic impact	\$2,718.90	\$667.80	\$159.00

IV. VITAL RECORDS

- A. December 2023 is currently showing a 17% decrease in birth certificate sales in comparison to December 2022. Death certificate sales currently showing an 11% decrease in comparison to December 2022. SNHD received revenues of \$24,713 for birth registrations, \$20,670 for death registrations; and an additional \$6,078 in miscellaneous fees.

COMMUNITY HEALTH Vital Statistics Program Birth/Deaths Registered – Fiscal Year Data

Vital Statistics Services	Dec 2022	Dec 2023		FY 22-23 (Dec)	FY 23-24 (Dec)	
Births Registered	1,980	1,769	↓	12,599	11,236	↓
Deaths Registered	1,868	1,686	↓	10,302	9,982	↓
Fetal Deaths Registered	16	21	↑	96	102	↑

COMMUNITY HEALTH Vital Statistics Program Birth/Deaths Certificates – Fiscal Year Data

Vital Statistics Services	Dec 2022	Dec 2023		FY 22-23 (Dec)	FY 23-24 (Dec)	
Birth Certificates Sold (walk-in)	57	92	↑	296	373	↑
Birth Certificates Mail	130	77	↓	690	743	↑
Birth Certificates Online Orders	3,039	2,536	↓	21,535	20,854	↓

Birth Certificates Billed	162	98	↓	696	659	↓
Birth Certificates Number of Total Sales	3,388	2,803	↓	23,217	22,629	↓
Death Certificates Sold (walk-in)	30	46	↑	103	187	↑
Death Certificates Mail	123	100	↓	920	914	↓
Death Certificates Online Orders	8,260	7,272	↓	47,178	43,142	↓
Death Certificates Billed	33	37	↑	198	206	↑
Death Certificates Number of Total Sales	8,446	7,455	↓	48,399	44,449	↓

COMMUNITY HEALTH Vital Statistics Program Birth/Deaths Cert. Sales by Source – Fiscal Year Data

Vital Statistics Sales by Source	Dec 2022	Dec 2023		FY 22-23 (Dec)	FY 23-24 (Dec)	
Birth Certificates Sold Valley View (walk-in)	1.7%	3.3%	↑	1.3%	1.6%	↑
Birth Certificates Mail	3.8%	2.7%	↓	3%	3.3%	↑
Birth Certificates Online Orders	89.7%	90.5%	↑	92.8%	92.2%	↓
Birth Certificates Billed	4.8%	3.5%	↓	3%	2.9%	↓
Death Certificates Sold Valley View (walk-in)	.4%	.6%	↑	.2%	.4%	↑
Death Certificates Mail	1.5%	1.3%	↓	1.9%	2.1%	↑
Death Certificates Online Orders	97.8%	97.5%	↓	97.5%	97.1%	↓
Death Certificates Billed	.4%	.5%	↑	.4%	.5%	↑

COMMUNITY HEALTH Vital Statistics Program Birth/Deaths Certificates Sales – Fiscal Year Data

Revenue	Dec 2022	Dec 2023		FY 22-23 (Dec)	FY 23-24 (Dec)	
Birth Certificates (\$25)	\$84,700	\$70,075	↓	\$580,425	\$565,725	↓
Death Certificates (\$25)	\$211,150	\$186,375	↓	\$1,209,975	\$1,111,225	↓
Births Registrations (\$13)	\$31,668	\$24,713	↓	\$215,852	\$194,441	↓
Deaths Registrations (\$13)	\$23,400	\$20,670	↓	\$135,954	\$126,867	↓
Convenience Fee (\$2)	\$6,618	\$5,338	↓	\$46,272	\$42,438	↓
Miscellaneous Admin	\$672	\$740	↑	\$3,597	\$3,770	↑
Total Vital Records Revenue	\$358,208	\$307,911	↓	\$2,192,075	\$2,044,466	↓

COMMUNITY HEALTH Passport Program – Fiscal Year Data

B. PASSPORT SERVICES – Passport Services is appointment only. Passport photos remain suspended.

Applications	Dec 2022	Dec 2023		FY 22-23 (Dec)	FY 23-24 (Dec)	
Passport Applications	659	497	↓	4,329	3,649	↓

Revenue	Dec 2022	Dec 2023		FY 22-23 (Dec)	FY 23-24 (Dec)	
Passport Execution/Acceptance fee (\$35)	\$23,065	\$17,395	↓	\$151,515	\$127,715	↓

V. HEALTH EQUITY

- A. The Health Equity program received a No Cost Extension from the Center for Disease Control to build, leverage, and expand infrastructure support for COVID prevention and control among populations that are at higher risk and underserved.
 - 1. The program continues to collaborate with SNHD programs and grant subrecipients to plan and coordinate COVID community strategies and events.
- B. The Health Equity Program works towards reducing health disparities through increasing organizational capacity and implementing community strategies.
 - 1. On December 12th, the Health Equity team participated in the Posada Community Holiday event sponsored by the All Saints Episcopal Church.

VI. SOUTHERN NEVADA PUBLIC HEALTH LABORATORY (SNPHL)

A. Clinical Testing:

- 1. The SNHD Nursing Division: molecular and microbiology culture, Sexually Transmitted Disease (STD) testing.
- 2. SNHD STD department: the CDC Gonococcal Isolate Surveillance Project (GISP) as well as enhanced Gonococcal Isolate Surveillance Project (eGISP). SNPHL performs NAAT and culture testing of *N. gonorrhoeae* isolates and submits isolates to a reference laboratory for the determination of antibiotic susceptibility patterns. SNPHL has also joined eGISP Part B to expand culture-independent testing for antimicrobial resistance genes of gonococcal isolates.
- 3. A total monthly samples tested is listed in the following table:

Test Name	Monthly Count	Avg Year to Date
GC Cultures	44	68
NAAT NG/CT	1,095	1,101

Syphilis	806	947
RPR/RPR Titers	138/54	187/91
Hepatitis Total	1,105	996
HIV/differentiated	517/20	632/19
HIV RNA	100	78

4. COVID testing:

- SARS-CoV-2 PCR extraction is currently performed on the KingFisher Flex platform only.
- SNPHL is to maintain the capacity of 2000 tests/day with a turnaround-time of <48 hours (TAT 2Day- currently at / near goal).
- For December, the average daily testing was 43 and the average turnaround time was 56 hours for PCR testing from the collection date to the release of the test report.
- IT created easy patient accession and direct report verification from SNPHL LIMS into SNHD patient report portal.
- Incorporate high throughput instruments such as Eppendorf 5073 automation of specimen fluid handling station.
- Molecular laboratory will add Tecan instrument after installing the updated script for the SARS-CoV-2 WGS procedure. The field person from Tecan will come to install the script in December.

A monthly summary of COVID PCR/NAAT testing is listed as follows:

Month	# PCR& NAAT/#POS	COVID	# PCR\$ NAAT/#POS
January	8,775/722	July	1,216/85
February	6,614/542	August	527/198
March	6,676/497	September	555/139
April	5,174/4,335	October	487/178
May	4,544/244	November	937/197
June	2,103/136	December	1,039/150

5. Reportable disease reports:

Vibrio	Vibrio ID	0	1	0	0	0	3	0	0	4	1	0	0	9
	Vibrio Screen	0	0	1	1	0	6	0	0	6	6	0	2	22
Yersinia	Yersinia Culture/ID	0	0	1	0	2	0	0	3	0	1	0	1	8

B. Epidemiological Testing and Consultation:

1. SNPHL participates in the SNHD Outbreak Investigation Committee and Foodborne Illness Taskforce. There were zero cases for GI outbreak investigation in December.
2. SNPHL continues to report results of influenza testing to the CDC National Respiratory and Enteric Virus Surveillance System (NREVSS). In December, SNPHL performed 47 respiratory panels on the BioFire.

C. Emergency response and reportable disease isolate testing report:

1. SNPHL performs reportable disease isolate testing and confirmation. Isolates submitted by local laboratories are serotyped and/or confirmed by Whole Genome Sequencing; stored on-site; and results reported and/or samples submitted to CDC through various national programs; Public Health Laboratory Information System (PHLIS), National Antimicrobial Resistance Monitoring System (NARMS), and Influenza Surveillance, and PulseNet Bacterial Outbreak Surveillance.
2. SNPHL’s additional mission is as a member of the CDC Laboratory Response Network (LRN) testing for the identification of potential biological weapons/agents on environmental daily samples within its unique BSL3 environment.

2023	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	July	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
Select Agent Rule out (total PCR)	0	0	2	2	1	0	1	2	4	0	0	0

3. SNPHL is clinically validated for using Whole Genome Sequencing (WGS) for the identification of Campylobacter species (select species), pathogenic Escherichia coli, and Salmonella species. SNPHL is also validated for the determination of Salmonella serotypes and STEC (Shiga toxin-producing E. coli) serotypes and Shiga toxin genes.
4. SNPHL performed 16 Whole Genome Sequencing tests (WGS) as part of PulseNet Foodborne Outbreak Surveillance in December 2023.

5. SNPHL has completed validation for all bacterial groups on the Bruker MALDI-TOF instrument for streamlined screening of bacterial isolates, to decrease turnaround time and modernize microbiological identification methods.
6. SNPHL is validated for sequencing of SARS-CoV-2 and variants of concern through the identification of lineages and clades.
7. SNPHL has sustained capacity of sequencing many 192 SARS-CoV-2-positive RNA extracts per week with expectations of increasing this capacity with appropriate staffing, instrumentation, and method development. As of December 2023, SNPHL has sequenced 81 SARS-CoV-2-positive RNA extracts.
8. SNPHL is clinically validated for the identification of Campylobacter species (select species), pathogenic Escherichia coli, and Salmonella species. SNPHL is also validated for the determination of Salmonella serotypes and STEC (Shiga toxin-producing E. coli) serotypes and Shiga toxin genes.
9. SNPHL coordinates and participates with Environmental Health and Veritas Labs for Legionella surveillance. As of August 2023, SNPHL conducts Legionella water testing for certain Legionella cases reported to ACDC and EH.

2023	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
Legionella	7	1	24	8	0	8	8	20	36	30	13	10

10. SNPHL provides vector testing for Environmental Services, Viral testing for Zika, West Nile, Western Equine Encephalitis, and Saint Louis encephalitis. Our facility hosted a CDC demonstration for the Vector team. In December, we tested a total of zero mosquito pool samples. There was no positive WNV mosquito pool samples were identified in December. Environmental Health released the test result to the public after we informed the test result to them.
11. As part of the Gonococcal Isolation Surveillance Program (GISP) and enhanced GISP (eGISP), in December, a total of 44 clinical isolates, Neisseria gonorrhoeae 14 isolates and Neisseria meningitidis zero (0) isolates, were collected and will be sent to either the regional laboratory for antimicrobial susceptibility testing (AST) or the CDC, respectively. Remnant NAATs or N. gonorrhoeae samples will be sent to the CDC for molecular-based AST testing as part of eGISP Part B.

D. All-Hazards Preparedness:

1. SNPHL provides / assists testing for SNHD COVID Emergency Incident Response, local community outreach, CCDC jail-detention centers, institutions of higher education, and long-term nursing facilities Rapid-Antigen POC (CDC-EUA: Abbott IDNow; Qiagen Sofia; BD Vector) with outbreak confirmation RT-PCR testing supported by SNPHL.
2. SNPHL provides COVID Biosafety Training/Guidelines to Non-Traditional testing sites.
3. SNPHL coordinates with training/exercises for First Responders including local Civil Support Team, HazMat, Federal Bureau of Investigation, and Las Vegas Metropolitan Police Department.
4. SNPHL provides information to local laboratorians on CDC packaging and shipping infectious substances and the chain of custody procedures.
5. Provided onsite training for COVID online ordering applications for long-term care facilities.
6. Supplied Biosafety Guidance to Sentinel Sites regarding Monkeypox.
7. Furnished Monkeypox and Bivalent COVID Booster vaccination to laboratory staff.
8. Perpetuated Biosafety Training and guidance to SNPHL personnel.

E. December 2023 SNPHL Activity Highlights:

1. SNPHL has a stable CDC supply of Viral Transport Medium (VTM) used in COVID collection kits.
2. Passed the CAP MVP, CAP Infectious Disease, Resp, Biofire Respiratory Virus panel, CAP SARS-CoV-2, CAP MEGN proficiency test in December 2023.
3. The clinical health laboratory purchased three (3) instruments for clinical testing to enhance the community health service. SNPHL received the urine analysis and Hematology instruments. Currently, the validation for both instruments has begun.
4. Our Emergency Response laboratory started to validate the warrior panel and verification process with CDC.
5. According to the WGS and genomic data analysis, the Omicron variant BA.2.86.1, HV.1, EG.5.1.6, and FL.1.5.2 lineages are domain lineages, 47%, 16%, 11% and 11% respectively, in December, from the samples received in the laboratory. Our laboratory will keep sequencing the closed contact samples to help ODS to follow up on the investigation.
6. Identified one (1) Monkeypox positive test result in December. The Whole Genome sequencing of December Monkeypox Positive samples has been completed. The clade for this case is IIb and the lineage is B.1.20 for three sequencing data analyses.
7. According to the data of influenza surveillance in this flu season, the A/H3 and A/H1 are major subtypes of influenza and the percentage of ratio between two subtypes are 66%, 16%, and 18 %, respectively.

8. SNPHL participates in the CDC Avian Flu surveillance project by sending the testing guidance and specimen collection procedure to the local hospitals through HAN system. Any ICU patient with influenza A positive must send the specimen to our laboratory to do influenza subtyping in order to rule out avian influenza.
9. SNHD Facilities is working on installing more security cameras in the BSL-3 laboratory in December 2023.
10. The builder/Architect for the SNPHL Lab expansion project has met facility team and laboratory staff to discuss the laboratory design. The builder/Architect had on-site visits and had lab tours. We all agreed to have weekly meetings to review and update the lab design.

	Oct-23	Nov-23	Dec-23	Total
Presumptive Positive	3	1	1	5
Negative	1	3	0	4
Total	4	4	1	9
Positive/Total	75.00%	25.00%	100%	55.5%

F. COMMUNITY HEALTH – SNPHL – Calendar Year Data

December SNPHL Services	2022	2023	
Clinical Testing Services ¹	3,942	4,445	↑
Epidemiology Services ²	677	1,108	↑
State Branch Public Health Laboratory Services ³	9,474	285	↓
All-Hazards Preparedness Services ⁴	7	4	↓
Environmental Health Services ⁵	0	56	↑

¹ Includes N. Gonorrhoeae culture, GISP isolates, Syphilis, HIV, CT/GC molecular, Gram stain testing, and COVID Ab immunologic tests.

² Includes Stool culture, EIA, Norovirus PCR, Respiratory Pathogen PCR, Epidemiological investigations, or consultations.

³ Includes COVID PCR, WGS, and LRN testing, proficiency samples, reporting to CDC, courier services, infectious substance shipments, teleconferences, training, presentations and inspections, samples submitted to CDC or other laboratories' submissions.

⁴ Includes Preparedness training, teleconferences, and Inspections.

⁵ Includes vector testing.