



Memorandum

Date: September 24, 2026

To: Southern Nevada District Board of Health

From: **Xavier Gonzales, PhD**, *Community Health Director*
Cassius Lockett, PhD, *District Health Officer* 

Subject: Community Health Division Monthly Activity Report – August 2026

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

A. Chronic Disease Prevention Program (CDPP)

Soda Free Summer + Move Your Way: CDPP staff worked with Promotoras Las Vegas (PLV) to promote Soda Free Summer and Move Your Way Initiative materials and resources through seven (7) different events and venues. Through this work, an estimated 4,260 participants received information about these important initiatives.

Move Your Way Events: CDPP Staff planned and participated in three (3) Move Your Way events in July and reached 1,463 children and families. The Move Your Way initiative provides education and free access to local pools and water activities to increase opportunities for physical activity during the summer months. As a result of this initiative, jurisdictions have shown an increase in pool entries, extended the pool season and offered additional free pool days.

Diabetes Self-Management Education and Support: In July, CDPP staff posted two (2) Diabetes Self-Management Education & Support (DSMES) in-person classes in Spanish and English on the Comagine Compass website to help with fall class promotion.

Heart Health Education Class – “Ease the Pressure”: CDPP staff facilitated the “Ease the Pressure” Heart Health Education Class in collaboration with the Diabetes Education Program. Twenty-four residents attended the class and received education on blood pressure and diabetes management. Participants also received educational materials and program resources to support healthy lifestyle changes. Following the class, six (6) participants received blood pressure screenings.

B. **Tobacco Control Program (TCP) Update**

Tobacco Retailer Postcard Campaign: TCP staff partnered with the Nevada Cancer Coalition on a campaign to reach tobacco retailers in Nevada, to remind them about the importance of checking identification for all tobacco sales and associated penalties for selling tobacco to minors. Educational postcards were mailed directly to over 2,100+ tobacco retailers across Nevada.

YRBS Video Review: The Nevada Youth Risk Behavior Survey (YRBS) provides valuable insight into the health behaviors and risk factors affecting Nevada's youth. As part of our tobacco control efforts, a recap video was created highlighting key YRBS findings related to tobacco and nicotine use, including important trends and issues impacting young people across the state. The video was shared through an e-blast to partners and stakeholders to increase awareness of the findings and reinforce the importance of continued youth tobacco prevention and control efforts. The email blast reached 326 people.

Fiesta Radio Partnership: As part of the ongoing partnership with Fiesta Radio 98.1 FM, program staff participated in the Back-to-School Fam Fest to promote the Por Mi, Por Ti, Por Nosotros, Viva Saludable initiative. Staff engaged with families by sharing culturally relevant tobacco cessation resources and educational materials on the dangers of vaping, while encouraging healthy, smoke-free lifestyles as students prepared to return to school. The event provided an opportunity to connect with the Hispanic and Latino community and increase awareness of available prevention and cessation resources. The event reached over 1,500 attendees.

Teen Social Media Brand Ambassadors: TCP staff identified teen social media influencer brand ambassadors to be a part of the BreakDown initiative. These brand ambassadors are trained to engage with their peers through authentic, peer-to-peer messaging about the importance of staying vape-free. In total, 68 teen brand ambassadors used their personal social media platforms to share vaping prevention and educational content to make the message relatable and impactful for their peers. The campaign generated strong engagement, reaching 39,604 views from other local youths and demonstrating the power of youth-led communication to promote positive health behaviors.

Nevada HAND Back-to-School Outreach: The Tobacco Control Program participated in the Nevada HAND's Back-to-School outreach events in July at eight (8) residential properties. These outreach events provided an opportunity to connect directly with residents and promote brain health and overall wellness. In total, 630 residents received education on the dangers of vaping and the free resources available to help people quit. This outreach strengthened community engagement and reinforced our partnership with Nevada HAND.

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

A. Education Committee

The Education Committee assists the OEMSTS, the Medical Advisory Board (MAB), and the QI Directors Committee in researching, developing, editing, and approving new and existing education for initial training and continuing education purposes. Members include volunteer representatives from permitted agencies, receiving hospitals, and individuals involved with the training of EMS professionals.

Committee members discussed EMS Instructor continuing education.

B. Drug/Device/Protocol Committee (DDP)

The Education Committee assists the OEMSTS, the Medical Advisory Board (MAB), and the QI Directors Committee in researching, developing, editing, and approving new and existing education for initial training and continuing education purposes. Members include volunteer representatives from permitted agencies, receiving hospitals, and individuals involved with the training of EMS professionals.

C. Medical Advisory Board (MAB)

The primary mission of the Medical Advisory Board 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
4. an employee of SNHD whose duties relate to the administration and enforcement of EMS Regulations as an ex-officio member

Committee members heard reports from EMS subcommittees.

D. OEMSTS – August 2025 / 2026 Data

August EMS Statistics	Aug 2025	Aug 2026	Mo. Fiscal Average 2025-2026
Total certificates issued	96	81	↓ 198
New licenses issued	88	79	↓ 67
Renewal licenses issued (recert only)	0	2	↑ 108
Driver Only	59	47	↓ 57
Active Certifications: EMT	1,032	1,117	↑ 1,119
Active Certifications: Advanced EMT	1,940	1,900	↓ 1,885
Active Certifications: Paramedic	2,260	2,393	↑ 2,331
Active Certifications: RN	85	92	↑ 88

III. OFFICE OF PUBLIC HEALTH PREPAREDNESS (OPHP)

A. Planning and Preparedness

Ongoing/Continuing Activities

(Emergency Planning & Preparedness)

1. Emergency Operations Plans under review by OPHP:
 - a) Community Reception Center
 - b) BioWatch
 - c) Recovery Annex
 - d) SNHD Continuity of Operations Plan – Essential Records/Resources
 - e) Threat Response Guide for Plague, Anthrax, Tularemia, and Ebola
2. Completion & Approved Plans
 - a) SNHD Continuity of Operations Plan
 - b) Emergency Operations Plan (EOP)
 - c) Medical Countermeasures Annex
 - d) Ebola Response Annex
3. State and Local Community Working Group meetings and OPHP Participation
 - a) Monthly State of Nevada Division of Public and Behavioral Health Public Health Preparedness Strategic Plan Subcommittees (Required Activity under federal grants)
 - i. Resources & Supply Chain Work Group
 - ii. Health Equity Work Group
 - iii. Planner attended Heat Working Group Activation meeting
 - iv. Planners and Trainers attended NDBPH POETE Quarterly Meeting
 - b)
 - i. Planner assisted Nevada Office of Emergency Management with Management Analyst II – Interview
 - ii. Planner participated in Clark County Integrated Preparedness Planning Workshop.
 - iii. Planners attended AFN Coalition Activation call for coordination in relation to the Bug and Hawk Fires.
4. Monthly SNHD Meetings
 - a) Central Safety Committee
 - b) Joint Labor Management Committee
 - c) Policy Committee (Manager)
 - d) Institutional Review Committee
 - e) Resort Emergency Management Working Group
 - f) Impacted Persons Database Healthcare Training, Exercise, Development Working Group
 - g) Resiliency Coalition Working Group

B. Training, Exercises, and Public Health Workforce Development

Attended Trainings and Events Activities

1. Our Planner participated in school EOP reviews for Academica's schools, and Western Youth Leadership, Engagement, and Empowerment School (WYLEES).
2. The OPHP Supervisor and Senior Planner attended PER211: Medical Management of CBRNE.

Ongoing/Continuing Activities

1. OPHP continues to support the City of Las Vegas with provision of ICS 300/400/G191 training schedule. ICS 300 was provided to 23 students on August 3rd – 5th at Clark County Fire Station 18. ICS 400 was not scheduled this month.
2. New Hire Orientation was not provided in August. The next training is scheduled for September 16th at the Decatur campus.
3. CPR course was provided for 3 SNHD staff members on August 12th.
4. On July 30th an all SNHD staff call down exercise was completed. Staff will use the information gathered to ensure correct contact information is in the Regroup system.

Upcoming Training and Exercise Events

1. Trainers continue to update the training calendar for 2026 course offerings to include Introduction to Radiological/Nuclear WMD Operations AWR-140, ALERRT Civilian Response to Active Assailant, Response to Bombing Incidents (RBI), and ICS Team Training.
2. Planning efforts for the 2027 Biological Functional Exercise continue with the midterm planning meeting scheduled for September 16th.
3. Incident Command Team training scheduled for October 15th at the Decatur campus.
4. ICS 300 for SNHD only staff is tentatively planned for October 5th – 7th at the Decatur campus.
5. Pediatric Disaster Response and Emergency Preparedness scheduled for October 7th – 8th.
6. Trainers will support ICS 400 at Las Vegas Valley Water District on September 2nd and G191 Emergency Operations Center/Incident Command System interface on September 29th at City of Henderson EOC.

C. Southern Nevada Healthcare Preparedness Coalition (SNHPC)

Ongoing/Continuing Activities

1. SNHPC held its monthly meeting in conjunction with the August retreat. Manager, Senior Planners, Planners, and Trainer attended.
2. OPHP Planners attended the Emergency Management Committee meetings for UMC and Dignity Health.
3. The Senior Planner, Planner, and Clinical Advisor continued planning for the SNHPC August retreat – Extended Downtime Health Care Delivery Impact.
4. Planner, Senior Planner, and Clinical Advisor attended the initial planning meeting with ProCare Hospice to begin planning for an active assailant full scale exercise.

5. Medical Management of Chemical, Biological, Nuclear and Explosive (CBRNE) Events
PER-211 was provided to 40 students on August 26th – 27th at City of North Las Vegas
City Hall.

New/Upcoming Activities

1. Ongoing coordination for the 2026 TEEX trainings:
 - a) Pediatric Disaster Response and Emergency Management MGT-439 October 7th – 8th, hosted by Dignity Health Siena Campus.
2. Cybersecurity healthcare presentation by CISA representative has been rescheduled for October 1st SNHPC meeting.

D. PHP Technician and N-95 Fit Testing

1. Thirty-nine SNHD Employees were FIT tested for personal protective equipment during August.

E. Fusion Center Public Health Analyst

Ongoing/Continuing Activities

1. Disseminated public health Information between SNHD and the Southern Nevada Counter Terrorism Center (SNCTC).
2. SNHD Analyst provided public health input for threat assessments on special events of local significance, including Fourth of July celebrations.
3. Monthly, our analyst continues to provide weekly verbal public health briefings during the SNCTC collaboration meetings.
4. The OPHP analysts continue to participate in weekly Counter Terrorism Analytic Group (CTAG) meetings.
5. Our analyst continues to develop appropriate connections to increase communication between SNHD, SNCTC, and its partner organizations.
6. Collaborating with five (5) surrounding fusion centers on areas of public health concern to produce monthly joint public health bulletins.

F. Grants and Administration

Ongoing/Continuing Activities

1. Our manager continues to represent the Community Health Division management on various SNHD working group committees and initiatives.
2. The OPHP Manager continues to reduce the physical inventory of miscellaneous stockpiled preparedness resources and transfer of excess grant-purchased surplus property to community partners for use.
3. In anticipation for State of Nevada Division of Public and Behavioral Health to issue new FY2027 subawards to SNHD. We have only received CRI and this grant is currently with state awaiting final signatures to fully execute award.
4. The manager continues to participate in Extreme Heat Working Group Meetings with community response partners.

G. Medical Reserve Corps (MRC) of Southern Nevada

1. MRC Volunteers assisted at the Decatur, Fremont, and Henderson immunization clinics for the back-to-school (BTS) rush.
2. MRC Volunteers provided blood pressure check and health education at the West Las Vegas Library as part of the Brain Health series from Health Equity. Several high readings were identified.
3. MRC and OPHP provided Radiation/Nuclear Incident Response training to fourteen (14) MRC Volunteers to prepare them for staffing Community Reception Centers.
4. MRC Coordinator attended SNHPC meeting, planned training and activities for upcoming months, sent out newsletters, and continued to recruit and deactivate volunteers.

MRC Volunteer Hours FY2026 Q2

Activity	July	Aug	Sep
Training	3	22.5	
Community Event	9.5	3	
SNHD Clinic	66.75	116	
Emergency Deployment		0	
FY2026 Total Hours	79.75	141.50	
FY2026 Economic Impact	\$2,864.10	\$5,138.92	
FY2025 Total Hours	72.75	132	
FY2025 Economic Impact	\$2,952.92	\$4,592.28	

Source: Department of Labor Economic Value Calculator for medical volunteers. For general volunteer help, which is most of the time, the Independent Sector calculates the value of volunteer time and publishes it each year. The current amount is \$34.79. <https://independentsector.org/research/value-of-volunteer-time/> (Economic impact rates updated April 2025)

VITAL RECORDS

- A.** August is currently showing a **5% decrease in birth certificate** sales in comparison to August 2025. **Death certificate** sales are currently showing a **4% increase** in comparison to August 2025. SNHD received revenues of \$33,891 for birth registrations, \$20,748 for death registrations, and an additional \$7,762 in miscellaneous fees.

COMMUNITY HEALTH Vital Statistics Program – Fiscal Year Data

Vital Statistics Services	Aug 2025	Aug 2026		Yr Average 08/2025 - 08/2026
Births Registered	1,367	1,876	↑	1,960
Deaths Registered	1,248	1,599	↑	22,797
Fetal Deaths Registered	12	16	↑	15

	Aug 2025	Aug 2026		Yr Average 08/2025 - 08/2026
Vital Statistics Services				
Birth Certificates Mail	193	155	↓	106
Birth Certificates Online Orders	4,161	3,952	↓	3,471
Birth Certificates Billed	108	118	↑	119
Birth Certificates Number of Total Sales	4,462	4,225	↓	3,697
Death Certificates Mail	152	137	↓	140
Death Certificates Online Orders	6,801	7,119	↑	7,789
Death Certificates Billed	50	68	↑	47
Death Certificates Number of Total Sales	7,003	7,324	↑	7,977

	August 2025	August 2026		Yr Average 08/2025- 08/2026
Revenue				
Birth Certificates (\$25)	\$111,550	\$105,625	↓	\$92,425
Death Certificates (\$25)	\$175,075	\$183,100	↑	\$199,420
Births Registrations (\$13)	\$37,297	\$33,891	↓	\$33,435
Deaths Registrations (\$13)	\$20,059	\$20,748	↑	\$23,842
Convenience Fee (\$2)	\$8,640	\$7,324	↓	\$6,980
Miscellaneous Admin	\$646	\$438	↓	\$578
Total Vital Records Revenue	\$353,267	\$351,126	↓	\$356,680

COMMUNITY HEALTH Passport Program – Fiscal Year Data

B. PASSPORT SERVICES – Passport Services is appointment-only.

	Aug 2025	Aug 2026		Yr Average 08/2025 - 08/2026
Applications				
Passport Applications	737	422	↓	655
				Yr Average 08/2025 - 08/2026
Revenue	Aug 2025	Aug 2026		
Passport Execution/Acceptance fee (\$35)	\$25,795	\$14,770	↓	\$22,954

IV. HEALTH EQUITY

Health Equity Program – August Highlights

The Health Equity Program continues to strengthen community partnerships and collaborations aimed at increasing the capacity of local communities to address health disparities.

Key Activities in August:

A. Youth Advisory Council (YAC - SPARK)

1. August 3rd, the Health Equity team presented the SNHD Programs and Services workshop to staffers of Dignity Health's Chronic Disease program. The workshop was provided remotely, nineteen (19) individuals attended and were provided information about the programs and services provided by SNHD.
2. August 4th and 18th, the Health Equity program implemented the last two (2) sessions on Brain Health for the summer reading campaign at the West Las Vegas Library. Workshop participants received education on risk factors associated with dementia and steps that can be taken to reduce that risk.
3. August 13th, the Health Equity program attended the LVMPD Hispanic Coalition Unidos Por la Comunidad Resource Fair. There were 45 event participants engaged with the Health Educator on site and received education on Brain Health in addition to information about programs and services provided at SNHD.
4. August 27th, the Health Equity program attended the Safe Routes to School (SRTS) kickoff event held at the CCSD Family Engagement Support Center at 1720 S Maryland Pkwy. There were 76 event participants engaged with the Health Educator on site and received information on available services at SNHD and provided education on brain health, and modifiable risks factors associated with an increased risk of dementia.

V. HEALTH CARDS

A. Locations

1. Advance appointments for our Decatur, Fremont, and Henderson offices open each weekday morning at 6 a.m. for that day in the following week.
2. Additional same-day appointments at our Decatur and Fremont offices open for booking each working day around 7:30 a.m. as staffing allows.
3. Same day appointments for our Laughlin and Mesquite offices are open each working day at 5 a.m.

B. Public Service

	Mar 2026	Apr 2026	May 2026	June 2026	July 2026	August 2026
FOOD HANDLER CARDS						
New Cards	4,699	4,844	4,505	5,493	4,902	4,327
Renewal Cards (In-person and Online)	5,340	4,422	3,680	3,717	3,726	3,553
Duplicates	579	582	515	479	462	472

	Mar 2026	Apr 2026	May 2026	June 2026	July 2026	August 2026
FOOD HANDLER CARDS						
CFSM (Manager) Cards	279	244	176	176	165	210
Re-Tests	1,282	1,245	954	1,033	1,023	927

	Mar 2026	Apr 2026	May 2026	June 2026	July 2026	August 2026
BODY ART CARDS						
Body Art Cards	137	102	110	84	116	108
Body Art Mentor Cards	5	7	13	14	9	34
Duplicates	2	0	3	2	3	1
Re-Test	6	5	4	6	5	3

	Mar 2026	Apr 2026	May 2026	June 2026	July 2026	August 2026
TOTAL CLIENTS SERVED						
	12,329	11,451	9,960	11,004	10,411	9,635

C. Passing and Paying

For the month of August, Health Cards averaged 67 “passing and paying” online renewal clients per day, with a total of 2,071 clients renewing online.

VI. SOUTHERN NEVADA PUBLIC HEALTH LABORATORY (SNPHL)

A. Clinical Testing: Key Updates

1. SNHD Public Health and Preventive Care Division Support

SNPHL provides laboratory services to the SNHD Nursing Division, including:

- a) Molecular and microbiological culture testing
- b) Sexually Transmitted Disease (STD) diagnostics

2. SNHD FQHC Division Support

SNPHL collaborates with the SNHD STD Department in the following activities:

- a) Participation in the CDC’s Gonococcal Isolate Surveillance Project (GISP) and the enhanced Gonococcal Isolate Surveillance Project (eGISP).
- b) Performing NAAT (Nucleic Acid Amplification Test) and culture testing for *Neisseria gonorrhoeae* isolates, which are submitted to reference laboratories for antimicrobial susceptibility patterns.
- c) Participation in eGISP Part B to expand culture-independent testing for antimicrobial resistance genes in gonococcal isolates.

- d) A detailed breakdown of monthly sample volumes provided on the accompanying table (RPR - Rapid Plasma Reagin):

Test Name	Monthly Count	Avg Year to Date
GC Cultures	36	28
NAAT NG/CT	1,709	1,621
Syphilis	841	749
RPR/RPR Titers*	285/138	139/52
Hepatitis Total	2,783	2,524
HIV/differentiated	711/26	658/16
HIV RNA	161	139

*= RPR / RPR Titers refer to tests used to screen for and monitor syphilis; RPR = Rapid Plasma Reagin

3. COVID-19 Testing Operations

- a) SARS-CoV-2 PCR testing is performed exclusively on the KingFisher Flex platform.
- b) SNPHL maintains a testing capacity of 2,000 tests per day, with a turnaround time (TAT) of less than 48 hours (current TAT two-day currently at / near goal).
- c) In August, the average daily testing volume was four (4) samples, with an average TAT of 48 hours from collection to report release.
- d) IT enhancements include streamlined patient accession and direct report verification from SNPHL's Laboratory Information Management System (LIMS) into the SNHD patient portal.
- e) High-throughput automation has been incorporated, including the Eppendorf 5073 specimen fluid handling station.

A detailed summary of COVID-19 testing volumes and performance metrics is provided in the accompanying table:

Month	# PCR & NAAT/#POS	Month	# PCR & NAAT/#POS
January	359/13	July	81/8
February	298/11	August	80/30
March	173/5	September	
April	128/7	October	
May	128/3	November	
June	68/9	December	

4. Reportable Disease Testing

- a) SNPHL continues routine testing of reportable disease specimens submitted by community stakeholders. Isolates tested are reported to OEDS on a weekly basis to aid in disease investigation, and SNPHL and OEDS coordinate with CDC PulseNet if required.

- b) A monthly summary of reportable disease testing provided on the accompanying table:

		Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	July	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec	Total
Campylobacter	Campy ID	3	2	9	6	7	9	4	9					49
	Campy Screen	3	5	12	13	17	12	13	21					96
Neisseria species	Gonorrhoeae Culture	24	22	25	28	14	40	31	36					220
	Gram Stain/WBC	0	5	0	0	0	5	0	0					10
	Neisseria ID	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0					0
	Haemophilus ID	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	0					1
Unknown ID	Bacterial ID	0	0	0	0	0	0	2	0					2
	WGS (PulseNet)	14	19	17	19	32	45	57	44					247
Salmonella	Salmonella Screen	6	12	6	10	12	30	34	32					142
	Salmonella Serotype	5	12	6	7	11	29	33	23					126
Shigella	Shigella Screen	2	3	5	2	6	6	9	11					44
	Shigella Serotype	1	2	3	0	5	3	6	5					25
STEC	STEC Screen	5	1	2	7	3	5	8	8					39
	STEC Serotype	3	2	2	3	0	1	4	4					19
Unknown	Stool Culture	1	5	0	2	2	5	4	3					22

Vibrio	Vibrio ID	2	0	0	4	0	0	2	1					9
	Vibrio Screen	3	0	1	4	0	0	5	2					15
Yersinia	Yersinia Culture/ID	0	1	1	0	2	1	1	2					8

B. Epidemiological Testing and Consultation - Key Updates:

1. Outbreak Investigation Committee Participation

SNPHL actively participates in the SNHD Outbreak Investigation Committee and the Foodborne Illness Taskforce. There were no gastrointestinal (GI) outbreak samples received for investigation in August.

2. Influenza Surveillance Reporting

SNPHL continues to report influenza testing results to the CDC's National Respiratory and Enteric Virus Surveillance System (NREVSS). In August, SNPHL performed fourteen (14) respiratory panel tests using the BioFire platform.

C. Emergency response and reportable disease isolate testing report - Key Activities and Capabilities:

1. Reportable Disease Isolate Testing and Confirmation

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), Influenza Surveillance, and PulseNet Bacterial Outbreak Surveillance.

2. Whole Genome Sequencing (WGS) Validation

SNPHL is clinically validated to use 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, STEC (Shiga toxin-producing *E. coli*) serotypes, and Shiga toxin genes.

3. PulseNet Surveillance

In July 2026, SNPHL performed 57 Whole Genome Sequencing tests (WGS) as part of the PulseNet Foodborne Outbreak Surveillance program.

4. Bacterial Isolate Screening

Using the Bruker MALDI-TOF instrument for streamlined screening of bacterial isolates. A total of 368 bacterial organisms were identified in July.

5. SARS-CoV-2 Sequencing

SNPHL is validated for the sequencing of SARS-CoV-2 and variants of concern through the identification of lineages and clades. SNPHL is sequencing 96 SARS-CoV-2-positive RNA extracts per week with expectations of increasing this capacity with appropriate staffing, instrumentation, and method development. As of July 2026, SNPHL has sequenced nine (9) SARS-CoV-2-positive RNA extracts.

6. **Legionella Surveillance**

SNPHL collaborates with Environmental Health and Veritas Labs for Legionella surveillance. Monthly isolate counts for 2026 are as follows:

2026	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
Legionella	39	45	83	18	43	22	79	24				

7. **Vector-Borne Disease Testing**

SNPHL provides viral testing for Zika, West Nile Virus (WNV), Western Equine Encephalitis, and Saint Louis Encephalitis.

- a) A total of **2,118 mosquito pool samples were tested** in August.
- b) In August, there were **(53) WNV-positive mosquito pool samples were identified**.
- c) Results are communicated to Environmental Health and subsequently released to the public.

8. **Gonococcal Isolation Surveillance Program (GISP/eGISP)**

In August, SNPHL collected 27 clinical isolates:

- a) *Neisseria gonorrhoeae*: thirteen (13) isolates
- b) *Neisseria meningitidis*: one (1) isolates
These will be sent to regional labs or the CDC for antimicrobial susceptibility testing (AST). Remnant NAATs (NAAT - Nucleic Acid Amplification Test) or *N. gonorrhoeae* samples will be submitted to the CDC for molecular-based AST under eGISP Part B.

9. **C. auris PCR Screening**

SNPHL performed 2,078 Real-Time PCR screenings for *Candida auris* in August 2026.

D. **All-Hazards Preparedness:**

1. **Coordination with First Responder Training**

SNPHL collaborates on training and exercises with first responder agencies, including the Civil Support Team, HazMat units, the Federal Bureau of Investigation (FBI), and the Las Vegas Metropolitan Police Department.

2. **Laboratory Packaging and Shipping Guidance**

SNPHL offers guidance to local laboratorians on CDC protocols for packaging and shipping infectious substances, including chain of custody procedures.

3. **Onsite Training for Long-Term Care Facilities**

SNPHL provided onsite training for long-term care facilities on the use of COVID-19 online ordering applications.

4. **Monkeypox Biosafety Guidance**

Biosafety guidance was supplied to sentinel sites in response to Monkeypox surveillance and containment efforts.

5. **Vaccination Support for Laboratory Staff**

SNPHL facilitated Monkeypox and bivalent COVID-19 booster vaccinations for laboratory personnel.

6. **Ongoing Biosafety Training for SNPHL Staff**

The laboratory continues to provide perpetual biosafety training and updated guidance to SNPHL personnel.

7. **Ebola/High-Risk Pathogen Preparedness**

Ebola / High-Risk Pathogen Preparedness: Reviewed SNHD Ebola Virus Disease (EVD) plan, State Concept of Operations, and hospital/EMS Ebola protocols to support ongoing preparedness planning; materials are being used as a baseline for future response planning discussions.

E. **August 2026 SNPHL Activity Highlights:**

1) **COVID-19 Testing Supplies and Reagent Forecast**

SNPHL has maintained a consistent supply of Viral Transport Medium (VTM) for COVID-19 collection kits, even following the cessation of ELC COVID funding.

2) **Facility Infrastructure and Equipment Calibration**

The Phoenix Controls company came to resolve the IP address and test the integrated system adjustment for the installation of the on-site monitor computer and network connection on the 2nd floor. This enables facility staff and Sunbelt Control employees to manage and modify the airflow, pressure, and temperature; no additional updates were reported this month.

3) **Genomic Surveillance – SARS-CoV-2**

WGS and genomic data analysis indicate that the Omicron variant XFG lineages were domain lineages in July 2026, from the samples received in the laboratory. Our laboratory will keep sequencing the close contact samples to help ODS to follow up on the investigation.

4) **Influenza Surveillance**

The current influenza surveillance season showed that A/H3 and B/Victoria are major subtypes of influenza.

5) **Ebola Testing**

SNPHL performs the Ebola testing by using BioFire Warrior panel which can detect Bacillus anthracis, Yersinia pestis, Francisella tularensis, Coxiella burnetii, Ebola virus, and Marburg virus. Current maximum capacity is twenty (20) samples per day, and turn-around time is 4-6 hours. No suspect Ebola samples were tested in August.

6) **Laboratory Workforce Development**

To support ongoing workforce development and laboratory preparedness, Alessandro Figuerre-Perello, LTII in Virology, attended the 2026 Influenza and SARS-CoV-2 Molecular Diagnostic Workshop (Session 2) at the North Carolina State Laboratory of Public Health in Raleigh, North Carolina, on August 27th – 28th. In addition, Ilene Bautista attended the LRN-B APHL/CDC Workshop in San Antonio, Texas, from August 31st – September 3rd. These training opportunities enhance staff expertise in molecular diagnostics and laboratory response capabilities, supporting the laboratory's commitment to maintaining proficiency in emerging public health testing and preparedness activities.

7) **Expansion Planning: BSL-3 Equipment**

SNPHL is using the GeneXpert instrument to ID Carbapenemase genes from rectal swab samples. This project may be implemented after the state CLIA inspection.

8) **Carbapenemase Detection**

The SNPHL will utilize the GeneXpert platform to detect carbapenemase-producing organisms by identifying carbapenemase genes from rectal swab specimens. This testing service is scheduled to be implemented and available to clients in September.

9) **State Laboratory Licensing**

The SNPHL has obtained an updated state laboratory license that includes approval for new testing capabilities in CRO PCR, measles, and clinical chemistry. We are currently updating the SNPHL website, revising requisition forms, and activating these tests in the laboratory information management system (LIMS). In addition, we will notify hospitals and Epidemiology partners of the availability of these new testing services.

F. **COMMUNITY HEALTH – SNPHL – Calendar Year Data**

August SNPHL Services	2025	2026	
Clinical Testing Services ¹	6,273	7,434	↑
Epidemiology Services ²	283	438	↑
State Branch Public Health Laboratory Services ³	0	0	=
All-Hazards Preparedness Services ⁴	5	5	=
Environmental Health Services ⁵	331	309	↓

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.