



Memorandum

Date: October 22, 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 – September 2026

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

A. Chronic Disease Prevention Program (CDPP)

Move Your Way: In August, the 2026 Move Your Way Initiative held four (4) community events at local pools, reaching 1,832 attendees. Move Your Way promotional and educational materials were distributed to encourage physical activity and increase awareness of opportunities to be active in the community.

Verano Sin Soda (Soda Free Summer) and Muévete a Tu Manera (Move Your Way) Initiatives: CDPP staff partnered with Promotoras Las Vegas to promote physical activity, reduce sugar-sweetened beverage consumption, and provide culturally relevant resources to the Hispanic community. In August, three (3) community outreach events reached an estimated 1,850 attendees. Year-to-date, thirteen (13) outreach events have been completed, exceeding the annual goal of five (5), with an estimated 6,110 attendees reached.

Get Healthy Clark County & Viva Saludable: CDPP staff maintain and regularly update the Get Healthy Clark County and Viva Saludable websites with information about health education, events, programs, and community resources on a variety of topics, including physical activity, healthy eating, diabetes self-management, and tobacco cessation. In August, Get Healthy Clark County had 233,300 unique visitors, and Viva Saludable had 13,870 unique visitors.

Expanding Heart Health Outreach Through a New Barbershop Partnership: The Barbershop Health Outreach Project (BSHOP) welcomed a new community partner, Fade Away Barbershop, expanding access to blood pressure screenings, heart health education, and resources in the community. Fade Away Barbershop hosted its first screening event, where eleven (11) clients

received blood pressure screenings and heart health education, and two (2) clients were referred to the Tobacco Quit Line for cessation support. Screening events will be held on the second Saturday of each month, providing clients with ongoing opportunities to monitor their blood pressure and connect with valuable community resources.

BSHOP Partner Community Back-to-School Fair: The Barbershop Health Outreach Project (BSHOP) supported Hats Off Barbershop during its annual Back-to-School event, helping connect families with valuable health information and resources. The event welcomed more than 250 attendees, with five (5) participants receiving blood pressure screenings.

Double Up Food Bucks (DUFB): CDPD staff partnered with Together We Can to provide ongoing technical assistance and monthly support to markets that will match SNAP dollars spent on fruits and vegetables. In August, participating sites reported \$4,825 in DUFB redemptions, bringing cumulative redemptions from February 2026 to \$37,149.

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

Multi-unit Housing Technical Assistance Webinar: TCP staff partnered with the Nevada State Apartment Association (NVSAA) and the Public Health Law Center (PHLC) to develop and host a smoke-free housing webinar for NVSAA members. The webinar was held on August 21st and focused on educating property owners and managers on the benefits of adopting smoke-free housing policies, policy implementation strategies, enforcement best practices, and free resources available through SNHD. The webinar received strong participation, with more than 140 attendees. Following the webinar, staff distributed follow-up emails and resource materials to all attendees to provide continued access to information and tools to support smoke-free housing efforts.

Tobacco Flavoring Workgroup Partnership: TCP staff collaborate with Northern Nevada Public Health (NNPH), Nevada Cancer Coalition (NCC), Carson City Health and Human Services (CCHHS), and Healthy Communities Coalition of Lyon & Storey Counties (HCCLSC) to work on public health issues around tobacco flavoring. Through this workgroup, the statewide Attracting Addiction NV initiative and website were created to develop educational materials, media assets, toolkits, and social media content focused on flavored tobacco products, menthol products, and e-cigarettes. To date, over 36 assets have been created and shared statewide.

Back-to-School Media Release: TCP staff published a news release focused on youth vaping prevention and the back-to-school season, highlighting the importance of raising awareness among students, parents, educators, and the broader community about the risks associated with vaping. The news release provided timely information and prevention-focused messaging to encourage healthy choices as students returned to school. The outreach generated media interest and resulted in coverage across six (6) media outlets, helping extend the reach of TCP's youth vaping prevention message to a broader audience.

Smoke-Free Policy Expansion: The Nevada Clean Indoor Air Act does not restrict smoking outside of building entrances. However, business owners have the right to implement voluntary “no smoking” policies of their own, specifying a set distance away from their establishments where smoking can occur. Outdoor smoke-free policies for businesses are important to minimize the exposure to secondhand smoke from entering through doors, windows, ventilation systems, etc. Staff promote policy resources, provide technical assistance, and offer complimentary smoke-free signage to various businesses on an ongoing basis. In August, 18 businesses in Southern Nevada implemented voluntary smoke-free policies for their establishments.

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

A. OEMSTS – September 2025 / 2026 Data

September EMS Statistics	Sep 2025	Sep 2026		Mo. Fiscal Average 2025-2026
Total certificates issued	771	1,985	↑	299
New licenses issued	124	159	↑	70
Renewal licenses issued (recert only)	602	1,826	↑	210
Driver Only	63	48	↓	55
Active Certifications: EMT	1,079	905	↓	1,105
Active Certifications: Advanced EMT	1,897	1,755	↓	1,873
Active Certifications: Paramedic	2,232	2,273	↑	2,335
Active Certifications: RN	85	90	↑	90

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
 - f) Emerging Highly Infectious Disease
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
 - b) State of Nevada Office of Emergency Management
 - i. Planner participated in Clark County Integrated Preparedness Planning Workshop.
 - c) Planner attended Nevada National Security Site Partner Briefing
 - d) Planners attended Bridging the Gap Virtual Workshop
- 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. Planner participated in school EOP reviews for Academica's schools, and Western Youth Leadership, Engagement, and Empowerment School (WYLEES).
2. Trainers and Planner attended TEEX Readiness: Training, Identification, and Preparedness Planning RTIPP course on September 23rd – 24th at Clark County Fire Station 18.
3. Senior Planner and PHP Technician attended the O-0305 – Type 3 All Hazards Incident Management Team training.
4. Senior Planner attended the Lithium Battery Incident Response for Region 9 Readiness Network ECHO Program.
5. Senior Planner attended the Bridging the Gap: Standard Rapid Response Across Hospitals, Emergency Services & HAZMAT webinar.

Ongoing/Continuing Activities

1. OPHP continues to support the City of Las Vegas with provision of ICS 300/400/G191 training schedule. ICS 400 was provided to 14 students on September 2nd - 3rd at Las Vegas Valley Water District. ICS 300 and G191 were scheduled in September but cancelled due to insufficient registration.
2. New Hire Orientation was provided to eleven (11) new employees on September 16th at the Decatur campus. The next training is scheduled for November 18th.

3. CPR course was provided for three (3) SNHD staff/MRC volunteers on September 23rd.
4. In response to the staff call down drill held in July, staff are drafting a Just in Time training document for activation of the emergency notification system.
5. Staff are reviewing and updating all Job Action Sheets (JAS) to ensure that there is a sheet for each position in various plans organizational charts.
6. Staff are drafting an appendix for the MCM plan related to testing.

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.
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.

C. Southern Nevada Healthcare Preparedness Coalition (SNHPC)

Ongoing/Continuing Activities

1. SNHPC held its monthly meeting. 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 with ProCare Hospice's active assailant full scale exercise.
4. Manager, Planner, Senior Planner, and Clinical Advisor participated in the Operation Nourishing Courage 2026 FCC Workshop.
5. Senior Planner, Planner, and Clinical Advisor met with ProCare hospice to offer subject matter expertise for exercise design.

New/Upcoming Activities

1. Ongoing coordination for the 2026 TEEX trainings:
 - a) Pediatric Disaster Response and Emergency Management MGT-439 October 7th – 8th, hosted at Dignity Health San Martin 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. Fifty-one SNHD Employees were FIT tested for personal protective equipment during September.

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.
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. SNHD received State of Nevada Division of Public and Behavioral Health FY2027 subawards. They are being routed internally for signatures.
4. The manager continues to participate in Extreme Heat Working Group Meetings with community response partners.
5. SNHD received the BioWatch program Notice of Aware for FY2027. SNHD is directly funded for this project through FEMA.

G. Medical Reserve Corps (MRC) of Southern Nevada

1. MRC Volunteer provided blood pressure check and health education at the Nevada HAND Senior Wellness Fair. About 70 blood pressures were read and 125 preparedness calendars distributed, along with health outreach information from OCDPHP.
2. 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	0
Community Event	9.5	3	5.25
SNHD Clinic	66.75	116	0
Emergency Deployment		0	0
FY2026 Total Hours	79.75	141.50	5.25
FY2026 Economic Impact	\$2,864.10	\$5,138.92	\$233.68

FY2025 Total Hours	72.75	132	28
FY2025 Economic Impact	\$2,952.92	\$4,592.28	\$1,246.28

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 \$36.14. <https://independentsector.org/research/value-of-volunteer-time/>(Economic impact rates updated April 2026)

IV. VITAL RECORDS

- A. September is currently showing a **7% decrease in birth certificate** sales in comparison to September 2025. **Death certificate** sales are currently showing a **1% increase** in comparison to September 2025. SNHD received revenues of \$31,967 for birth registrations, \$22,217 for death registrations, and an additional \$7,228 in miscellaneous fees.

COMMUNITY HEALTH Vital Statistics Program – Fiscal Year Data

Vital Statistics Services	Sept 2025	Sept 2026		Yr Average 09/2025 - 09/2026
Births Registered	2,967	2,176	↓	2,023
Deaths Registered	2,162	1,419	↓	1,766
Fetal Deaths Registered	17	15	↓	15

Vital Statistics Services	Sept 2025	Sept 2026		Yr Average 09/2025- 09/2026
Birth Certificates Mail	103	114	↑	108
Birth Certificates Online Orders	4,179	3,805	↓	3,436
Birth Certificates Billed	74	116	↑	119
Birth Certificates Number of Total Sales	4,356	4,035	↓	3,664
Death Certificates Mail	178	114	↓	138
Death Certificates Online Orders	7,443	7,567	↑	7,846
Death Certificates Billed	29	46	↑	47
Death Certificates Number of Total Sales	7,650	7,727	↑	8,032

Revenue	Sept 2025	Sept 2026		Yr Average 09/2025 - 09/2026
Birth Certificates (\$25)	\$108,900	\$100,875	↓	\$91,603
Death Certificates (\$25)	\$191,250	\$193,175	↑	\$200,811

Births Registrations (\$13)	\$35,893	\$31,967	↓	\$33,025
Deaths Registrations (\$13)	\$22,113	\$22,217	↑	\$22,446
Convenience Fee (\$2)	\$8,148	\$6,840	↓	\$6,841
Miscellaneous Admin	\$693	\$388	↓	\$558
Total Vital Records Revenue	\$366,997	\$355,462	↓	\$355,284

COMMUNITY HEALTH Passport Program – Fiscal Year Data

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

	Sept 2025	Sept 2026		Yr Average 09/2025 - 09/2026
Applications				
Passport Applications	682	451	↓	633
				Yr Average 09/2025 - 09/2026
Revenue				
Passport Execution/Acceptance fee (\$35)	\$23,870	\$15,785	↓	\$22,184

V. HEALTH EQUITY

Health Equity Program – September 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 September:

A. Youth Advisory Council (YAC - SPARK)

1. September 3rd, a Health Educator from the Health Equity Team participated in the Benefits and Wellness Expo held at the Treasure Island Hotel and Casino. An event where 160 attendees received information about SNHD programs and services, brain health and resources.
2. September 9th, the Health Equity program implemented week two of the Youth Advisory Council. YAC members completed the intro to Health Equity module and received a presentation in Informatics and program functions.
3. September 10th, a Health Educator from the Health Equity Team participated in the Benefits and Wellness Expo held at the Circus Circus Hotel and Casino. An event where 123 attendees received information about SNHD programs and services, brain health and resources. 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. September 15th, the Health Equity Department collaborated with the Cleveland Clinic and hosted a memory screening training for Community Health Workers, Health Educators and other providers. A total of sixteen (16) SNHD staff members were trained.
5. September 16th, the Brain Health program presented a workshop on Demetia risk reduction and caregiver support to 120 Nevada Hands staff members.
6. September 17th, the Health Equity team provided support to the Cleveland Clinic on their memory screening outreach event held at Sun City Aliante.
7. September 23rd, the Health Equity program implemented week three of the Youth Advisory Council. YAC members completed Using Social Media for public health messaging and received information from the Office of Communication focusing on services and programs.

VI. 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

	Apr 2026	May 2026	June 2026	July 2026	August 2026	Sept 2026
FOOD HANDLER CARDS						
New Cards	4,844	4,505	5,493	4,902	4,327	4,296
Renewal Cards (In-person and Online)	4,422	3,680	3,717	3,726	3,553	3,378
Duplicates	582	515	479	462	472	486
CFSM (Manager) Cards	244	176	176	165	210	233
Re-Tests	1,245	954	1,033	1,023	927	915

	Apr 2026	May 2026	June 2026	July 2026	August 2026	Sept 2026
BODY ART CARDS						
Body Art Cards	102	110	84	116	108	106
Body Art Mentor Cards	7	13	14	9	34	27
Duplicates	0	3	2	3	1	0
Re-Test	5	4	6	5	3	5

TOTAL CLIENTS SERVED	Apr 2026	May 2026	June 2026	July 2026	August 2026	Sept 2026
	11,451	9,960	11,004	10,411	9,635	9,446

C. Passing and Paying

For the month of September, Health Cards averaged 67 “passing and paying” online renewal clients per day, with a total of 1,968 clients renewing online.

VII. 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 antibiotic 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	57	31
NAAT NG/CT	1729	1633
Syphilis	827	757
RPR/RPR Titers*	177/37	143/39
Hepatitis Total	2701	2544
HIV/differentiated	728/25	666/17

HIV RNA	161	135
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*= RPR / RPR Titers refer to tests used to screen for and monitor syphilis; RPR = Rapid Plasma Reagin

3. COVID-19 Testing Operations

- SARS-CoV-2 PCR testing is performed exclusively on the KingFisher Flex platform.
- 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).
- In September, the average daily testing volume was 22 samples, with an average TAT of 48 hours from collection to report release.
- IT enhancements include streamlined patient accession and direct report verification from SNPHL's Laboratory Information Management System (LIMS) into the SNHD patient portal.
- 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	439/85
April	128/7	October	
May	128/3	November	
June	68/9	December	

4. Reportable Disease Testing

- 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.
- 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	0				49
	Campy Screen	3	5	12	13	17	12	13	21	12				108
Neisseria species	Gonorrhoeae Culture	24	22	25	28	14	40	31	36	57				277

	Gram Stain/WBC	0	5	0	0	0	5	0	0	5				15
	Neisseria ID	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0				0
	Haemophilus ID	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	0				1
Unknown ID	Bacterial ID	0	0	0	0	0	0	2	0	2				4
	WGS (PulseNet)	14	19	17	19	32	45	57	44	36				283
Salmonella	Salmonella Screen	6	12	6	10	12	30	34	32	21				163
	Salmonella Serotype	5	12	6	7	11	29	33	23	2				128
Shigella	Shigella Screen	2	3	5	2	6	6	9	11	8				52
	Shigella Serotype	1	2	3	0	5	3	6	5	0				25
STEC	STEC Screen	5	1	2	7	3	5	8	8	8				47
	STEC Serotype	3	2	2	3	0	1	4	4	2				21
Unknown	Stool Culture	1	5	0	2	2	5	4	3	5				27
Vibrio	Vibrio ID	2	0	0	4	0	0	2	1	0				9
	Vibrio Screen	3	0	1	4	0	0	5	2	0				15
Yersinia	Yersinia Culture/ID	0	1	1	0	2	1	1	2	0				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 September.

2. Influenza Surveillance Reporting

SNPHL continues to report influenza testing results to the CDC's National Respiratory and

Enteric Virus Surveillance System (NREVSS). In September, SNPHL performed nineteen (19) 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 September 2026, SNPHL performed 36 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 275 bacterial organisms were identified in September.

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 September 2026, SNPHL has sequenced 51 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	42			

7. **Vector-Borne Disease Testing**

SNPHL provides vector testing for Environmental Services, Viral testing for Dengue, West Nile (WNV), Western Equine Encephalitis, and Saint Louis encephalitis. Our facility hosted a CDC demonstration for the Vector team.

- A total of **2,456 mosquito pool samples were tested** in September.
- In September, there were (54) WNV-positive mosquito pool samples were identified.
- Results are communicated to Environmental Health and subsequently released to the public.

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

In September, SNPHL collected 49 clinical isolates:

- a) *Neisseria gonorrhoeae*: ten (10) isolates
 - b) *Neisseria meningitidis*: two (2) 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 2,040 Real-Time PCR screenings for *Candida auris* in September 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. **September 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 September 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**

September 30th, a total of 2,465 mosquito pools were tested through the mosquito surveillance program. Surveillance activities identified 54 West Nile virus (WNV)-positive mosquito pools across Southern Nevada. To date, no mosquito pools have tested positive for St. Louis encephalitis (SLE), Western equine encephalitis (WEE), or dengue virus. These findings indicate that WNV remains the primary mosquito-borne pathogen detected during the 2026 surveillance season, while no evidence of other targeted arboviruses has been identified.

6) **BioFire Warrior Ebola Testing**

Our SNPHL team 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 20 samples per day, and turn-around time is 4 – 6 hours. No suspect Ebola samples were tested in September.

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

The Facilities team is addressing air conditioning issues in the Microbiology and storage areas to maintain appropriate environmental conditions for laboratory operations. Preventive boiler maintenance is also being performed to support reliable building heating and hot water systems.

8) **Carbapenemase Detection**

The SNPHL has implemented the GeneXpert platform for the detection of carbapenemase-producing organisms through identification of carbapenemase genes from rectal swab specimens. This testing service became available to healthcare providers in September and supports local surveillance and infection prevention efforts.

9) **CPO Outbreak Investigation**

The SNPHL supported a CPO outbreak investigation at Sunset Ridge Post Acute by testing approximately 45 recollected resident screening specimens after the original specimens

were not tested within the required timeframe. Carba-R testing identified a high positivity rate, including detection of KPC and NDM carbapenemase genes. The results supported resident cohorting, infection prevention measures, and outbreak control efforts at the facility.

10) CLIA Inspection & Certification

The SNPHL successfully completed August 30th, State inspection and renewed its CLIA certification with only one minor deviation identified. The inspection approval enabled expansion of the laboratory testing menu to include Measles PCR, Creatinine/Microalbumin testing, CRO culture and susceptibility testing, and CRO PCR colonization screening. Overall, the laboratory remains in good regulatory standing, with corrective actions implemented and new testing capabilities now available to support public health and healthcare partners throughout Southern Nevada.

F. COMMUNITY HEALTH – SNPHL – Calendar Year Data

September SNPHL Services	2025	2026	
Clinical Testing Services ¹	6,691	7,217	↑
Epidemiology Services ²	395	481	↑
State Branch Public Health Laboratory Services ³	0	0	=
All-Hazards Preparedness Services ⁴	6	6	=
Environmental Health Services ⁵	470	386	↓

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

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

³ Includes COVD 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.