



DATE: April 27, 2023

TO: Southern Nevada District Board of Health Members

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

SUBJECT: District Health Officer Report

National Transgender HIV Testing Day

The Southern Nevada Health District commemorated National Transgender HIV Testing Day (NTHTD) on April 18, encouraging transgender and nonbinary persons to get tested for HIV and other sexually transmitted infections as well as learn about HIV pre-exposure prophylaxis (PrEP) and post-exposure prophylaxis (PEP). NTHTD is a day to recognize the importance of routine HIV testing, status awareness and continued focus on HIV prevention and treatment for transgender and nonbinary people in the community.

The Health District offers Express HIV Testing Monday through Thursday from 7:30 a.m. – 4 p.m. at its [Sexual Health Clinic](#), 280 S. Decatur Blvd., Las Vegas, NV 89107. Walk-ins are accepted on a first-come, first-served basis, patients are encouraged to arrive early, and they must be asymptomatic. Testing also includes syphilis, gonorrhea and chlamydia.

Additionally, free HIV testing is available in the Arleen Cooper Clinic at The Center, 401 S. Maryland Parkway, Las Vegas, NV 89101. Services are offered Monday through Thursday from 1 – 6 p.m. and on Fridays and Saturdays from 9 a.m. – 2 p.m. Appointments are preferred, but walk-ins are accepted.

The Health District also offers at-home HIV, chlamydia and gonorrhea testing through its Collect2Protect program. The HIV test is free; the other tests are fee-based. The kits are available on the Health District's website at [Collect2Protect](#) and provide a convenient and private testing option.

Early diagnosis is critical for people with HIV so that they can benefit from antiretroviral therapy (ART). ART reduces HIV levels in the bloodstream, reduces HIV-related illnesses, and lowers the risk of transmitting HIV to intimate partners. With ART, HIV-positive people can remain healthy for many years.

According to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC), nearly one million people identify as transgender in the United States, and transgender people made up 2 percent of new HIV diagnoses in 2019. Likewise in Clark County, transgender people made up 3.4 percent of new HIV diagnoses from 2017-2021. For more information, visit the CDC's [HIV and Transgender People: HIV Prevalence](#) page.

Health care providers are the foundation of gender-affirming HIV screening, prevention and care. Included among these providers are The Center, the Henderson Equality Center and the Las Vegas TransPride Center, all members of the Southern Nevada Health Consortium.

In addition, the Las Vegas TransPride Center, located at 727 S. 9th Street, Ste. B, Las Vegas, NV 89101, offers a space for the trans community to gather for activities and events. Services include a food pantry, clothing boutique, book exchange, a "Binder" program for trans masculine individuals, help with name change, medical advocacy, and chaplaincy or hospital visits.

Pop-Up Produce Stands

The Pop-Up Produce stands are returning for 2023. The stands provide people increased access to affordable, locally grown, organic fresh fruits and vegetables. Open to everyone, six pop-ups are scheduled throughout 2023 at the Bonneville Transit Center (BTC) in Las Vegas, starting in early May. Customers can use their SNAP/EBT card, cash, debit, or credit cards.

The program is a partnership among the Southern Nevada Health District's Office of Chronic Disease Prevention and Health Promotion, the Regional Transportation Commission of Southern Nevada (RTC) and Prevail Marketplace. The BTC, located at 101 E. Bonneville Ave., Las Vegas, NV 89101, will be the site of Pop-Up Produce Stands on the following dates:

- Tuesday, May 2
- Tuesday, June 6
- Tuesday, September 5
- Tuesday, October 3
- Tuesday, November 7
- Tuesday, December 5

The stand will be open from noon until 3 p.m., or while supplies last. Last year's markets resulted in over 5,200 pounds of produce sold and \$6,955 in total sales, with over 20% of total sales from SNAP/EBT transactions.

Healthy recipe cards, nutrition education and other health resources will also be available at the pop-ups. For more information, people can call the Office of Chronic Disease Prevention and Health Promotion at (702) 759-1270 or visit the [Get Healthy Clark County Farmers Markets](#) page. The website also has a list of local farmers markets, including those that accept EBT, SNAP, and debit or credit cards.

Minority Health Month

April is [National Minority Health Month](#), calling attention to health disparities that affect people from racial and ethnic minority groups. It is also a time to encourage action through health education, early detection and control of disease complications. The theme for 2023 is "Better Health Through Better Understanding."

Racial and ethnic minorities face the greatest health disparities in the United States, and for the Health District, Minority Health Month is a time to reflect on its responsibility to understand health care barriers that disproportionately affect minorities, and its continuing efforts to support better health outcomes and create a more culturally responsive environment for all its clients.

The Health District continues to offer quality and affordable care options to underserved people in the community, such as the [Fremont Public Health Center](#), located at 2830 E. Fremont St., Las

Vegas, NV 89104. The Federally Qualified Health Center (FQHC) offers primary medical care, family planning services, HIV/AIDS care, and behavioral health services. Other Health District services, programs and resources that focus on increasing health equity include:

- [Diabetes Prevention and Self-Management Program](#) – offering free diabetes self-management, education and support classes in Spanish
- [Barbershop Health Outreach Program](#) – offering free blood pressure and prediabetes screenings, education and referrals to health care providers as needed
- [Faithful Families Classes](#) – classes in healthy eating and physical activity, provided in Spanish
- [Grocery Store Tours](#) – led by a registered dietitian, helping people learn how to shop healthier
- [Viva Saludable Website](#) – information on a variety of health topics provided in Spanish
- Spanish-Language social media sites – Instagram: vivasaludablesnv; Facebook: Viva Saludable
- [Healthier Tomorrow Radio Program](#) – a monthly call-in show focusing on health topics of concern to the African American community
- [Because We Matter](#) – a smoking and vaping prevention initiative for African Americans
- [Por mi. Por ti. Por nosotros. Viva saludable!](#) – an initiative to encourage Hispanic/Latinos to quit smoking and vaping
- [Island eNVy](#) – supporting healthy lifestyles through education and engagement with Native Hawaiians and the Pacific Islander community in Southern Nevada
- [CRUSH](#) – supporting the LGBTQ+ community to quit smoking and vaping

The Health District also partners with All Saints Episcopal Church to provide [Sexual Health Clinic](#) services at the church. Located at 4201 W. Washington Ave., Las Vegas, NV 89107, the clinic provides a safe, welcoming and non-traditional location for the community to seek screening, treatment and preventive sexual health services.

Health organizations use the [Culturally and Linguistically Appropriate Services](#) (CLAS) standards to serve as a blueprint to help better the quality of services provided to all individuals, advance health equity and help eliminate health care disparities. Last fall, all Health District community health center staff members completed a CLAS standards survey to ensure they are actively finding ways to increase access to health care and offer services that are culturally responsive to our diverse community.

The clinics currently offer the following services to clients:

- Bilingual staff members certified to provide interpretation services (Spanish and Swahili)
- Interpreting services
- UBI DUO machine used for clients who are deaf or hard of hearing
- Materials translated in Spanish and English
- Case management, care coordination and insurance enrollment and eligibility assistance
- Transportation assistance

In addition, the clinics continually explore other ways to best serve clients, improve clinical quality, reduce access disparities, and achieve health equity.

Biomedical HIV Prevention Summit

The Southern Nevada Health District and Washoe County Health District welcomed the [Biomedical HIV Prevention Summit](#) to the Cosmopolitan in Las Vegas, on April 11 and 12. Presented by the [National Minority AIDS Council](#) (NMAC), the summit convened more than 1,400 leaders, advocates and educators to share ideas and learn about new approaches to preventing HIV infection.

The annual event focused on implementing biomedical tools in prevention and treatment efforts to ultimately end the HIV epidemic in communities of color. The summit featured sessions on the need for a national Pre-Exposure Prophylaxis (PrEP) program, community participation in research, insurance for PrEP and other topics.

The Health Districts hosted “Community Corner” presentations during the summit, with the Southern Nevada Health District covering the topic of PrEP Navigation and PrEP Academic/Public Health Detailing efforts, and Washoe County Health District addressing the launch of a PrEP pilot program using non-traditional funding sources.

In 2021, 89 percent of Nevada’s newly diagnosed HIV cases were in Clark County. An additional 7.7 percent of newly diagnosed cases were in Washoe County. According to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC), Black/African American people have a disproportionately higher number of new HIV diagnoses and people living with HIV, compared to other races and ethnicities. These disparities are driven by factors including racism, HIV stigma, homophobia, poverty and barriers to health care. SNHD and WCHD support efforts by NMAC to lessen the burdens of these social determinants of health.

As part of efforts to reduce new HIV infections, the Health District is among the participants in the Ending the HIV Epidemic in the U.S. initiative (EHE), led by the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services. The initiative aims to reduce new HIV infections in the United States by 90 percent by 2030 by scaling up key HIV prevention and treatment strategies. EHE provides a targeted infusion of resources and support to 50 local areas, including Clark County, that account for more than half of new HIV diagnoses in the U.S. Washoe County Health District supports EHE initiatives on a smaller scale and partners with the Southern Nevada Health District on many initiatives.

Influenza Surveillance

In Clark County, for the season as of April 8, 2023, there have been 859 influenza-associated hospitalizations and 48 influenza-associated deaths reported. The percentage of emergency department and urgent care clinic visits for influenza-like-illness (ILI) increased slightly from 2.8% in week 13 to 3.5% in week 14. Influenza A has been the dominant type circulating. Nationwide, during week 14, seasonal influenza activity is low. Among the 55 states/jurisdictions, the ILI activity level in Nevada remains minimal. The Health District will continue to update the public on flu activity and encourage flu vaccinations for everyone 6 months of age and older. Flu vaccines are available at [SNHD clinics](#) as well as doctors’ offices and pharmacies throughout Clark County.

Community Meetings

Week ending 03/26:

Weekly:

- Attended the Legislative Working Group meeting

Monthly:

- Participated in the individual Southern Nevada District Board of Health Agenda Review meeting with Mayor Pro Tempore Black, Scott Nielson, Councilwoman Gallo, Councilwoman Nancy Brune, Mayor Hardy
- Participated in the Southern Nevada Community Health Center Finance Committee meeting
- Participated in the Southern Nevada Community Health Center Governing Board meeting
- Participated in the Southern Nevada District Board of Health Finance Committee meeting
- Participated in the Southern Nevada District Board of Health meeting
- Attended the Big Cities Health Coalition (BCHC) Monthly Member call

Professional Development/Conferences:

- Attended the “CDC Response All STLT Update Call re COVID-19 and Mpox” webinar facilitated by the CDC

Ad-hoc Meetings/Events:

- Facilitated the New Board of Health Member Orientation for Councilwoman Brune and Councilwoman Gallo
- Participated in a meeting with the Mayor Michelle Romero, representatives of the City of Henderson, Bradley Mayer, and Mayor Pro Tempore Scott Black regarding funding for the Southern Nevada Public Health Lab (SNPHL) expansion
- Attended the City of North Las Vegas State of the City

Week ending 03/19:

Weekly:

- Attended the Legislative Working Group meeting

Quarterly:

- Attended the Graduate Medical Education Committee (GMEC) meeting
- Nevada Primary Care Association (NVPCA) Finance Committee meeting

Professional Development/Conferences:

- Attended the “Exploring the New Foundational Public Health Services (FPHS) Capacity and Cost Assessment” webinar series facilitated by the Public Health National Center for Innovations (PHNCI) at the Public Health Accreditation Board (PHAB)

Ad-hoc Meetings/Events:

- Meeting with the Catholic Charities of Southern Nevada regarding Refugee Providers and Community Consultation

Week ending 03/05:

Bi-weekly (every two weeks):

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

Quarterly:

- Participated in the State Board of Health meeting

Professional Development/Conferences:

- Attended the “Latest Update on Urgent Virus Outbreaks” webinar

Ad-hoc Meetings/Events:

- Attended the Winter 2023 In-Person Member Meeting facilitated by the Big Cities Health Coalition (BCHC)
- Attended a visit to Capitol Hill with BCHC and NACCHO member leadership