



DATE: June 22, 2023

TO: Southern Nevada District Board of Health Members

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

SUBJECT: District Health Officer Report

Xylazine

The Southern Nevada Health District (SNHD) is urging heightened public awareness of the health dangers associated with xylazine, an animal tranquilizer that is increasingly being found in the country's illicit drug supply and linked to overdose deaths throughout the United States. Xylazine, also known as "tranq," is not approved for human consumption. It can be life-threatening and is especially dangerous when combined with opioids such as fentanyl.

In March, the U.S. Drug Enforcement Administration (DEA) issued a [report](#) alerting the public of a sharp increase in the trafficking of fentanyl mixed with xylazine. The DEA said, "Xylazine and fentanyl drug mixtures place users at a higher risk of suffering a fatal drug poisoning." SNHD's message to the public noted the devastating impact of the fentanyl/xylazine combination, underscoring that it is vital to be proactive in taking steps to educate people about this threat in order to save lives.

The use of xylazine can cause drowsiness, amnesia, blood sugar abnormalities, slowed breathing, slowed heartbeat, apnea, dangerously low blood pressure and death. Federal authorities say people who inject drug mixtures containing xylazine also can develop severe wounds, including necrosis which may lead to amputation. According to the National Institute on Drug Abuse, repeated xylazine use is associated with skin ulcers, abscesses and related complications.

While xylazine use has not been widely reported in Nevada, SNHD registered one overdose death involving both the drug and fentanyl in 2020. SNHD has been expanding its surveillance capabilities to help ensure it can detect new substances more quickly and collaborate with its partners to respond appropriately.

According to the CDC, overdose deaths from synthetic opioids (primarily fentanyl) have been increasing nationwide in recent years. A major reason is people who use drugs not realizing that their drugs are laced with fentanyl. Fentanyl test strips allow people to test drugs for traces of fentanyl, which can be deadly even in small amounts. SNHD provides test strips without a prescription at 280 S. Decatur Blvd., Las Vegas, NV 89107, or at a distribution location which can be found at <https://nvopioidresponse.org/harm-reduction/fts/fts-finder/>. Given the potential of xylazine's presence in combination with fentanyl, in the event a substance tests positive for fentanyl it is important to use extra caution if using the substance.

While naloxone (Narcan) will not reverse the effects of xylazine (xylazine is not an opioid), it should be given in response to any suspected overdose as a means of reversing any possible opioid effects. It's also important to call 911 for additional medical treatment. The U.S. Department of Health and Human Services provides information on responding to an opioid overdose at [How to Respond to an Opioid Overdose | HHS.gov](#).

To learn more about xylazine, visit <https://harmreduction.org/wp-content/uploads/2022/11/Xylazine-in-the-Drug-Supply-one-pager.pdf>. People who are using substances, or their loved ones, can obtain information about support and resources by calling the 988 Suicide and Crisis Hotline or by visiting <https://behavioralhealthnv.org/>.

Back-to-School

The school year begins on Monday, August 7, and SNHD immunization clinics are offering expanded dates and times so parents and guardians in Clark County have plenty of time to ensure their children are appropriately vaccinated and ready for the first day of school. SNHD is encouraging parents and guardians to make an appointment now for their kindergartners, 7th and 12th graders at one of its immunization clinics for their mandatory school vaccines so they can beat the back-to-school rush.

The Clark County School District (CCSD) requires the following vaccinations for students enrolling in school: chickenpox (varicella), hepatitis A, hepatitis B, polio, tetanus-diphtheria-pertussis (DTaP and Tdap), quadrivalent meningitis, and measles-mumps-rubella (MMR). Parents who recently moved to Nevada should note hepatitis A vaccination is required in the state. Immunizations that were up to date in other states that do not require hepatitis A vaccination might not be current in Nevada.

Students enrolled in the 12th grade in Nevada public, private, or charter schools must receive the meningococcal vaccine (MenACWY) prior to the start of the 2023-2024 school year. MenACWY is also required for students entering 7th grade and for students entering the 8th through 12th grades who are new to Nevada schools, including private or charter schools, and CCSD. In addition, 7th-graders must receive their tetanus-diphtheria-pertussis (Tdap) vaccine. For more information on required vaccinations, visit Immunize Nevada's [School Vaccinations](#) page.

Mandatory back to school vaccinations, as well as recommended vaccinations, are available at the following SNHD locations by appointment only:

- **Main Public Health Center, 280 S. Decatur Blvd., Las Vegas, NV 89107**
Monday – Thursday, 7 a.m. – 5 p.m. (closed noon – 1 p.m.)
Special back-to-school dates and times at this location:
Fridays: July 28 and August 4, 8 a.m. – 4:30 p.m.
Saturday: August 5, 9 a.m. – 2 p.m.
- **East Las Vegas Public Health Center, 2950 E. Bonanza Rd., Las Vegas, NV 89101**
Tuesday – Friday, 7 a.m. – 5 p.m. (closed noon – 1 p.m.)
Special back-to-school dates and times at this location:
Mondays: July 31 and August 7, 8 a.m. – 4:30 p.m.
- **Henderson Public Health Center, 220 E. Horizon Dr., Ste. A, Henderson, NV 89015**
Monday – Thursday, 7 a.m. – 5 p.m.

- **Mesquite Public Health Center, 150 N. Yucca St., Mesquite, NV 89027**

Tuesday and Thursday, 8 a.m. – 4:30 p.m. (closed noon – 1 p.m.)

Special back-to-school dates and times at this location:

Wednesday, July 26, 8 a.m. – 4:30 p.m.

Monday, July 31, 8 a.m. – 4:30 p.m.

Friday, August 4, 8 a.m. – 4:30 p.m.

Appointments are available by calling (702) 759-0850 or by visiting the website at www.snhd.info/bts.

SNHD accepts most insurance plans. Not all immunizations are covered by insurance. Vaccine costs vary based on the type of immunization required. In addition to the vaccine costs, SNHD charges an administration fee of \$20 per person for one vaccine and \$8 for each additional vaccine. For more information, visit www.snhd.info/bts.

Mandated back to school vaccinations will also be available at the **CCSD Family Support Center, 1720 S. Maryland Pkwy., Las Vegas, NV 89104**, as follows:

- June 21, July 5, July 12, July 19 and July 26, 8 a.m - noon and 1 - 3:30 p.m.

Immunizations at the CCSD Family Support Center will be provided at no cost, and appointments are not necessary.

Back-to-school immunizations for children 11-18 years of age, which include Tdap, MCV4 and HPV, will also be available at the following locations:

Fremont Public Health Center, 2830 E Fremont St., Las Vegas, NV 89104

- Tuesday – Friday during June and July, 8 a.m. – 5 p.m.
- Monday – Friday, July 31 – August 11, 8 a.m. – 5 p.m.
- Appointments are required; call (702) 759-0850 or visit www.snhd.info/bts.

Boulevard Mall (in El Mercado), 3528 S. Maryland Parkway, Las Vegas, NV 89169

- Tuesday through Thursday and Saturdays during June, 1:30 – 5 p.m.
- Tuesday through Friday during July, 11 a.m. – 5 p.m.
- July 8, 22 and 29, 11 a.m. – 5 p.m.
- The clinic is located in Suites 703-705 on 'Avenida 5 de Mayo.' Appointments are required; call (702) 759-0850 or visit www.snhd.info/bts.

Parents and guardians vaccinating a child at an SNHD clinic should bring immunization records. If a parent or guardian cannot locate immunization records, they should contact their child's health care provider. If their children were immunized in Nevada, parents can also visit Nevada WebIZ, a statewide immunization registry, at <https://izrecord.nv.gov/public/Application/PublicPortal> or call Nevada WebIZ at (775) 684-5954. Non-custodial adults may accompany a child; however, written consent must be provided to SNHD from the parent or guardian at the time of service.

Pop-Up Produce Stands

The Pop-Up Produce Stands, a partnership of SNHD's Office of Chronic Disease Prevention and Health Promotion, the Regional Transportation Commission of Southern Nevada (RTC) and Prevail Market Place are back, giving people increased access to affordable, locally grown, organic fresh fruits and vegetables. While the pop-up stands are open to everyone, they were implemented to help those who experience barriers to accessing fresh produce, including affordability and transportation obstacles. The first two of the 2023 pop-ups were offered in May and the beginning of June and four more are scheduled throughout the year at the Bonneville Transit Center (BTC) Plaza in Las Vegas. Customers can use their SNAP/EBT card, cash, debit, or credit cards.

The pop-up stands can play a role in addressing the problem of food insecurity in Southern Nevada. According to Three Square, nearly 350,000 people in Clark County are food insecure, meaning they are unable to access or afford enough nutritious food for their overall health and well-being.

Prevail Marketplace is the only farmers market in Southern Nevada to source a majority of their produce from Nevada farmers. The June Pop-Up Stand featured new offerings including strawberries, peaches and other seasonal produce. The BTC Plaza, located at 101 E. Bonneville Ave., Las Vegas, NV 89101, will be the site of Pop-Up Produce Stands on the following dates:

- 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, 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. www.SNHD.info/covid.

Move Your Way Challenge

The Office of Chronic Disease Prevention and Health Promotion kicked off the 2023 Move Your Way® Summer Challenge on Friday, May 26, with Slide into Summer activities at the Henderson Multigenerational Activity Pool. Slide into Summer is the first in a series of free, summer-long events aimed at encouraging Southern Nevadans to be more physically active.

According to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC), a majority of adolescents and adults in Southern Nevada do not meet physical activity guidelines, which contributes to physical activity related health disparities in the community. These disparities highlight the need for organized community-wide campaigns to encourage and provide physical activity opportunities among priority populations.

[Move Your Way](#)® is a physical activity campaign from the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services that promotes recommendations from the [Physical Activity Guidelines for Americans](#) and encourage people to incorporate them into everyday life. The campaign provides resources to help people stay on track as they take steps to improve their fitness.

SNHD's [Get Healthy Clark County](#) and [Viva Saludable](#) websites also offer free programs that can help increase physical activity. Online programs include Walk Around Nevada and Neon to Nature. Additional programs include tools and information about healthy eating, nutrition tips, smoking cessation, and resources to help maintain a healthier lifestyle.

Throughout the summer, the Health District and its partners are offering free events to encourage people to “move their way” and participate in physical activity. Upcoming events include:

Saturday, July 8, 2 – 5 p.m.

Parks and Recreation Month Celebration - live DJ, entertainment and games
Silver Mesa Recreation Pool, 4025 Allen Ln., North Las Vegas, NV 89032

Saturday, August 5, noon – 3 p.m.

Back to School Event – live DJ, entertainment and games, with special guests North Las Vegas Mayor Pro Tem Scott Black and Clark County Commissioner Marilyn Kirkpatrick
Silver Mesa Recreation Center Pool, 4095 Allen Ln., North Las Vegas, NV 89032

The Health District is challenging everyone to move more and sit less this summer in the hope that people will take advantage of these activities to improve their health and fitness while having fun.

Additional information about the Move Your Way® Summer Challenge is available on SNHD's [Get Healthy Clark County](#) and the Spanish-language [Viva Saludable](#) websites. Visit the Get Healthy Clark County [calendar](#) and Viva Saludable [calendar](#) for more details about [Move Your Way](#) activities.

Community Meetings

Week ending 05/28:

Bi-weekly (every two weeks):

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

Monthly:

- Participated in the individual Southern Nevada District Board of Health Agenda Review meeting with Mayor Pro Tem Scott Black, Scott Nielson, Bobbette Bond, Mayor Joseph Hardy, and Mayor Pro Tem Brian Knudsen
- Participated in the Southern Nevada District Board of Health meeting

Media/Interviews/Panelist/Presenter:

- Welcome message at the Health District After Dark on Popular Culture and Mental Health
- Interview (in Spanish) with Jackeline Dos Ramos Vieira (NBC Universal) on the xylazine risk

Professional Development/Conferences:

- Attended the “Public Health Infrastructure Grantee” virtual conference facilitated by the CDC

Ad-hoc Meetings/Events:

- Participated in a Facility Interview Update Call with the CDC

Week ending 05/21:Monthly:

- 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 Nevada Primary Care Association (NVPCA) Board of Directors meeting
- Participated in the individual Southern Nevada District Board of Health Agenda Review meeting with Commissioner Kirkpatrick and Commissioner Segerblom

Quarterly:

- Attended the Las Vegas BAC meeting

Media/Interviews/Panelist/Presenter:

- Interview (in Spanish) with Luz Gray and Michelle Rindels (The Nevada Independent en Español/ Cafecito Nevada/Fiesta 98.1 FM) on COVID-19
- Testified at Senate Committee on Finance Hearing on Senate Bill 118 on Public Health Funding

Professional Development/Conferences:

- Attended the “2023 HRSA Health Grants Workshop” webinar
- Attended the “Connex 2023: Future-Forward Business: Exploring What’s Next” virtual conference facilitated by the Harvard Business School Online

Ad-hoc Meetings/Events:

- Participated in a meeting with Huron Consulting regarding the Health District’s Strategic Plan
- Participated in a meeting with representatives from RubiconMD

Week ending 05/14:Monthly:

- Attended the Big Cities Health Coalition (BCHC) Monthly Member Call
- Participated in the WastewaterSCAN Stakeholder meeting

Quarterly:

- Participated in the Nevada State EMS Advisory Committee meeting
- Nevada Primary Care Association (NVPCA) Finance Committee meeting

Media/Interviews/Panelist/Presenter:

- Presented at the End of Public Health Emergency Media Update

Professional Development/Conferences:

- Attended the “2023 Nevada Health Conference on Accelerating Health Equity in Nevada: Crossing the Bridge from Equality to Equity in Healthcare and Public Health” conference facilitated by Immunize Nevada
- Attended the “Follow the Money? Understanding the Structural Incentives for Inequity in Health Care and Beyond” webinar facilitated by the National Health Equity Grand Rounds
- Attended the “Hepatitis C Virus: Barriers to Treatment and Community-focused Primary Care” webinar facilitated by the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) and the American Liver Foundation
- Attended the “Contemporary Issues in Medical Ethics and Law” webinar facilitated by the Clark County Medical Society

Ad-hoc Meetings/Events:

- Participated in a meeting with Huron Consulting regarding the Health District’s Strategic Plan
- Participated in a meeting with Dr. Antonina Capurro regarding dental services at the Southern Nevada Community Health Center

Week ending 05/07:

Bi-weekly (every two weeks):

- Participated in the Legislative Working Group meeting

Quarterly:

- Participated in the Southern Nevada Health District Facilities Advisory Board meeting

Media/Interviews/Panelist/Presenter:

- Presented at the Fight the Bite Kick-off media event at the Clark County Wetlands Park

Professional Development/Conferences:

- Attended the “Universal Adult Hepatitis B: Best Practices for Implementing Universal Screening and Vaccination” webinar
- Attended the “Congressional Briefing and National Webinar: Ready or Not 2023: Protecting the Public's Health from Diseases, Disasters, and Bioterrorism” webinar facilitated by Trust for America’s Health

Ad-hoc Meetings/Events:

- Attended a meeting with Tami Bruno (Catholic Charities), Jeffrey Tilton (Catholic Charities), Milan Devatek (ECDC – African Community Center), Father Rafael Pereira (All Saints Episcopal Church) regarding refugee services