



**DATE:** June 27, 2024

**TO:** Southern Nevada District Board of Health Members

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

**SUBJECT:** District Health Officer Report

---

### **CDC Director's Visit**

Dr. Mandy Cohen, Director of the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, was in Las Vegas on Tuesday, June 11, visiting Trac-B Exchange, a federally funded harm reduction center, the Southern Nevada Health District's main facility, and UNLV. At Trac-B, Dr. Cohen met with health officials from the Health District and Trac-B staff to discuss overdose prevention and their work to improve the quality of life of those affected by substance use disorders. After the Trac-B tour, Dr. Cohen met with additional Health District staff and finished her visit at UNLV.

### **Revocation of Lifeguard Waivers**

After hearing an appeal by Las Vegas Athletic Clubs (LVAC), the Southern Nevada Health District issued an order on June 13, 2024, upholding its decision to revoke a variance that allowed LVAC to monitor pool users via video camera in lieu of an in-person lifeguard. An important factor in the Health District's decision was video showing an incident in February 2024 in which an LVAC customer died in one of its indoor pool facilities. The Health District order provides a timeline for the incident showing a person in distress for approximately twenty minutes, without a response from LVAC.

LVAC received a variance in 2020, and several other gyms subsequently applied for and received similar waivers that allowed pool user monitoring through a video feed instead of a pool-side lifeguard. In subsequent inspections over the next four years, the Health District determined these waivers were not adequate to ensure the facilities were protecting the public after two serious incidents occurred, including the death, and repeated failures by facilities to meet the requirements of the variance. Since the lifeguard exemption for gyms was granted in 2020, there have been 29 pool closures at 21 locations due to failures to comply with requirements. Specific safety plan requirements that were not met included failing to provide active remote monitoring of the pool area and documented walk-throughs of the pool area by facility staff.

The Health District's Aquatic Facility Regulations were enacted by the Southern Nevada District Board of Health in 2018 after four years of extensive public workshops to solicit input from stakeholders and the public. Following approval of the regulations, Health District staff provided training during a one-year implementation period at industry outreach meetings and made the training available online.

The regulations are based on the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention's Model Pool Code and Nevada Administrative Code. The Health District's regulations are posted on its website at

[www.southernnevadahealthdistrict.org/permits-and-regulations/aquatic-health-program/regulations/](http://www.southernnevadahealthdistrict.org/permits-and-regulations/aquatic-health-program/regulations/), and the CDC Model Aquatic Health Code is available at [www.cdc.gov/model-aquatic-health-code/php/about/index.html](http://www.cdc.gov/model-aquatic-health-code/php/about/index.html).

### **Mosquito Surveillance Update**

The Health District is reminding people to protect themselves from mosquitoes as it reports the highest level of activity in the program's history this early in a season. As of June 6, 2024, 91 mosquito pools, comprising 3,081 mosquitoes from 16 ZIP codes, have tested positive for West Nile virus. Two mosquito pools, comprising 46 mosquitoes from two ZIP codes, have tested positive for the virus that causes St. Louis encephalitis.

The Health District's Mosquito Surveillance Program has also received an increased number of complaints from the public about mosquito activity. Increased awareness and reporting of mosquito activity are attributed to the expansion of *Aedes aegypti* mosquitoes throughout the region. *Aedes aegypti* mosquitoes are known to be aggressive daytime biters that prefer feeding on people instead of birds and are not typical vectors for West Nile virus. A single *Aedes aegypti* tested positive in 2017, and a submission pool of 22 mosquitoes tested positive in 2023.

Mosquitoes testing positive for St. Louis encephalitis virus were last reported in Clark County in 2019 and the last reported cases in humans in 2016. St. Louis encephalitis virus is spread to people by the bite of an infected mosquito. Most people infected with the virus will not develop symptoms. People who become ill may develop fever, headache, nausea, vomiting and fatigue. Some people may develop a neuroinvasive form of the disease that causes encephalitis (inflammation of the brain) or meningitis (inflammation of the membranes surrounding the brain and spinal cord).

There was minimal West Nile virus activity reported in 2020, 2021, and 2023. In 2019, 43 confirmed human cases were reported. Two human cases of West Nile Virus were reported in 2023. West Nile virus is spread to people through the bite of an infected mosquito. About one in five people infected with West Nile virus will develop symptoms that can include fever, headache, body aches, vomiting, diarrhea or rash. About one in 150 will develop more serious, sometimes fatal, illness. People who think they might have West Nile should talk with their health care provider.

The risk of mosquito-borne illnesses can be reduced through preventive measures. The Health District's Fite the Bite campaign calls on people to:

- Eliminate standing water and other breeding sources around their homes. *Aedes aegypti* breed in small containers that collect rain or irrigation water, such as children's toys, wheelbarrows and plant saucers, and even bottle caps.
- Prevent mosquito bites by using an Environmental Protection Agency (EPA)-registered insect repellent. Wear loose-fitting, long-sleeved shirts and pants.
- Report mosquito activity to the Health District's surveillance program at (702) 759-1633. To report a green pool, people should [contact](#) their local code enforcement agency.

More Fight the Bite tips and resources are available at [www.southernnevadahealthdistrict.org/programs/mosquito-surveillance/mosquito-bite-prevention/](http://www.southernnevadahealthdistrict.org/programs/mosquito-surveillance/mosquito-bite-prevention/) and on the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention website at [www.cdc.gov/mosquitoes/prevention/index.html](http://www.cdc.gov/mosquitoes/prevention/index.html).

The Health District's seasonal mosquito surveillance reports are available at [www.southernnevadahealthdistrict.org/programs/mosquito-surveillance/arbovirus-update/](http://www.southernnevadahealthdistrict.org/programs/mosquito-surveillance/arbovirus-update/).

### **Move Your Way Summer Challenge**

The Health District's Office of Chronic Disease Prevention and Health Promotion invites community members to participate in the 2024 Move Your Way® campaign this summer, with a series of activities scheduled throughout the Valley. The activities at public swimming pools are aimed at encouraging area residents to be more physically active.

According to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC), a majority of adolescents and adults in Nevada do not meet physical activity guidelines, which contributes to physical activity related health disparities in the community. A CDC survey showed that 26% of the state's population reported participating in physical activities. The Office of Chronic Disease Prevention & Health Promotion is working with partners to ensure that everyone in our community has access to opportunities to be physically active.

During the campaign, which started in May, the Health District and its partners are offering free events to encourage people to "move their way" and enjoy healthy, physical activities:

#### **Saturday, July 6, noon – 3 p.m.**

Parks and Rec Month Celebration pool party  
Silver Mesa Recreation Pool, 4025 Allen Lane, North Las Vegas, NV 89032

#### **Saturday, August 10, noon – 3 p.m.**

Back to school pool party presented by North Las Vegas Councilman Scott Black and Clark County Commissioner Marilyn Kirkpatrick  
Silver Mesa Recreation Pool, 4025 Allen Lane, North Las Vegas, NV 89032

#### **Saturday, September 2, 11 a.m. – 6 p.m.**

Block party featuring Rad Tad  
Whitney Ranch Activity Pool, 1575 W. Galleria Dr., Henderson, NV 89014

[Move Your Way](#)® is a physical activity campaign from the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services to promote the 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 in improving their fitness.

More information about the Move Your Way® Summer Challenge is available at [Move Your Way Southern Nevada - Get Healthy Clark County](#) and the Spanish-language [Muévete a Tu Manera - Viva Saludable](#) websites. Visit the Get Healthy Clark County [calendar](#) or Viva Saludable [calendar](#) for additional details.

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

## **Men's Health Month**

Observed each year during June, Men's Health Month spotlights health and wellness issues faced by all men. Throughout the month, the Health District reminds men to take charge of their overall health by implementing health-centered decisions.

Men's health issues will be front and center at an annual Shop Talk event, "Shop Talk: Cut to the Chase" on Thursday, June 27, from 6 – 8 p.m. at the Masterpiece Barber School, 3510 E. Bonanza, Las Vegas, NV 89110. Presented by the Barbershop Health Outreach Project in collaboration with the Men's Room, the free event – for men only – features health care experts leading discussions on general men's health, cardiovascular health, erectile dysfunction and prostate cancer.

An estimated 13.8% of men in the United States are in fair or poor health, and women outlive men by nearly six years. Diseases such as heart disease, cancer and diabetes affect men to a greater extent than women. While these conditions can, in many cases, be prevented through regular check-ups and healthy choices, men are much less likely than women to see a doctor or report symptoms to a health care provider.

Early detection through cancer and other health screenings are essential for improving survival rates and maintaining good health. With services including annual physicals, chronic disease care, and sick visits for minor illnesses, the Health District operates the [Southern Nevada Community Health Center](#) at the following locations:

- **280 S. Decatur Blvd., Las Vegas, NV 89107, open** Monday – Thursday 7:30 a.m. – 6 p.m.
- **2830 E. Fremont St., Las Vegas, NV 89104, open** Tuesday – Friday 7:30 a.m. – 6 p.m.

The Health District also urges men to check out the myriad prevention and self-management resources on the [Get Healthy Clark County website](#). The site addresses many important health issues affecting men, including heart disease, cancer, diabetes, obesity, smoking cessation and nutrition.

Tobacco use is just one health indicator where men fare worse than women. In Nevada and nationwide, more men than women smoke cigarettes and/or use electronic vapor products. Nationally, 13.1% of men currently smoke cigarettes and more than 250,000 men die every year from smoking. In Clark County, 15% of men smoked cigarettes in 2022. Smoking remains the leading cause of preventable disease, disability, and death in the United States. Get Healthy Clark County offers significant free [resources](#) on quitting the habit, including the [Nevada Tobacco Quitline](#).

The [CDC's cheat sheet](#) on men's health cancer screenings is a valuable resource that offers crucial information regarding the optimal timing for colon and lung cancer testing. Additionally, it advises talking with a primary care physician about screening options for prostate and skin cancer. To manage risk factors for heart disease, such as high blood pressure, visit the [Manage Your Risk](#) section of the Get Healthy website. Visit the [Community Calendar](#) for a schedule of free blood pressure checks at participating barbershops. For people with diabetes or prediabetes, the Health District offers free diabetes classes virtually or in-person. Visit [GetHealthyClarkCounty.org](#) for classes in English and [VivaSaludable.org](#) for classes in Spanish. Those who register will be added to a waiting list and will be invited to the next class when scheduled. A downloadable resource of [low-cost clinics](#) is also available on the Get Health Clark County website.

## **Community Meetings**

### **Week ending 06/02:**

#### **Ad-hoc Meetings:**

- Participated a meeting with representatives from the Center for Disease Control (CDC) regarding the CDC Director, Dr. Mandy Cohen, visit to Las Vegas
- Participated in a meeting with representatives from the National Association of Counties (NACo) and the Nevada local health authorities regarding the Public Health Improvement Fund

### **Week ending 05/26:**

#### **Monthly:**

- Participated in the individual Southern Nevada District Board of Health Agenda Review meeting with Councilman Black, Councilwoman Gallo, Mayor Hardy, Councilman Seebeck, Scott Nielson
- Participated in the Southern Nevada District Board of Health meeting

#### **Media/Interviews/Panelist/Presenter/Events:**

- Interview (in Spanish) with Adriana Arevalo (Voice of America) on the Beat the Heat initiative

#### **Professional Development/Conferences:**

- Attended the “CDC HPAI A (H5N1) Response Update Partner Call”

#### **Ad-hoc Meetings:**

- Attended a meeting with representatives from the Center for Disease Control (CDC) regarding the CDC Director, Dr. Mandy Cohen, visit to Las Vegas
- Attended the Listening Session around NACCHO engagement and communication

### **Week ending 05/19:**

#### **Monthly:**

- Participated in the individual Southern Nevada District Board of Health Agenda Review meeting with Commissioner Kirkpatrick

#### **Media/Interviews/Panelist/Presenter/Events:**

- Participated in the Heat Event

#### **Professional Development/Conferences:**

- Attended the CDC New Health Official Orientation

#### **Ad-hoc Meetings:**

- Attended a meeting with representatives from the Center for Disease Control (CDC) regarding the CDC Director, Dr. Mandy Cohen, visit to Las Vegas
- Attended the Guided Tour of the Big Cities Health Inventory with the Big Cities Health Coalition (BCHC)

### **Week ending 05/12:**

#### **Monthly:**

- Attended the Big Cities Health Coalition (BCHC) Monthly Member Call

#### **Professional Development/Conferences:**

- Attended the “7<sup>th</sup> Annual Southern Nevada Summit on Children’s Mental Health” Conference facilitated by the Clark County Children’s Mental Health Consortium
- Attended the “Just Play it Cool” Community Health Center Resources to Address Heat and Climate Change” webinar facilitated by the National Association of Community Health Centers (NACHC)
- Attended the “Writing for Scientific Publication: Part 2” webinar facilitated by the University of Nevada, Las Vegas (UNLV)

Ad-hoc Meetings:

- Attended a meeting with Commissioner Marilyn Kirkpatrick regarding the Southern Nevada Public Health Laboratory (SNPHL)
- Attended a meeting with representatives from the Center for Disease Control (CDC) regarding Dr. Cohn's visit to Las Vegas

**Week ending 05/05:**

Monthly:

- Participated in the Electronic Health Information Advisory Group meeting

Professional Development/Conferences:

- Attended the "Nevada Medicaid Managed Care Statewide Expansion and Procurement Public Workshop" webinar facilitated by Nevada Medicaid
- Attended the "Local Action, Life-Saving Impact: Utilizing Opioid Settlement Funds for Overdose Prevention Public Health Campaigns and Promotions" webinar facilitated by National Association of County and City Health Officials (NACCHO)

Ad-hoc Meetings:

- Attended a meeting with the state and local health authorities regarding Public Health Funding