



DATE: July 25, 2024

TO: Southern Nevada District Board of Health Members

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

SUBJECT: District Health Officer Report

National HIV Testing Day

In observance of National HIV Testing Day on June 27, the Southern Nevada Health District (SNHD) and the Southern Nevada Health Consortium will provide free HIV testing at various community locations. The campaign, themed, “Level up your self-love: check your status,” encourages people to get tested, know their HIV status, and get linked to care and treatment.

Approximately 1.2 million people in the United States have HIV, with about 13 percent of unaware of their status. In 2021, an estimated 32,100 new HIV infections occurred in the U.S. in 2021. Clark County reported 488 new HIV diagnoses in 2022, with 11,518 people living with HIV. HIV disproportionately impacts racial and ethnic minorities, and gay, bisexual, and other men who have sex with men.

Antiretroviral treatment (ART) has transformed HIV infection from a fatal illness to a manageable chronic condition. Early and consistent ART therapy after diagnosis is essential for controlling HIV, minimizing long-term immune system damage, reducing HIV levels in the bloodstream, reducing illnesses, and lowering transmission risk to intimate partners. With ART, HIV-positive people can remain healthy for many years.

Free HIV testing will be available at the following locations on June 27:

- TRAC-B Exchange, 6114 West Charleston Blvd., Las Vegas, NV 89146
9:30 a.m. – 4:30 p.m., 702-840-6693
- Community Counseling Center, 714 E. Sahara Ave., Las Vegas, NV 89104
9 a.m. – 5 p.m., 702-369-8700
- The Center, 401 S. Maryland Pkwy., Las Vegas, NV 89101
1 – 7 p.m., 702-733-9800
- AIDS Healthcare Foundation (AHF) MEOU Wolf, 3215 S. Rancho, Las Vegas, NV 89102
1 – 5 p.m., 702-862-8075 (AHF) or 866-636-9969 (MEOU Wolf)
- AIDS Healthcare Foundation (AHF), 3201 S. Maryland Pkwy., #218, Las Vegas, NV 89101
1 – 8 p.m., 702-862-8075
- Walgreens, 7599 West Lake Mead Blvd., Las Vegas, NV 89128 (provided by Sagebrush Health)
9 a.m. – 5 p.m., 725-300-0506
- Walgreens, 451 S. Decatur Blvd., Las Vegas, NV 89107 (provided by UMC)
2 p.m. – 6 p.m., 702-207-TEST

SNHD will also offer Express HIV testing at no cost from 8 a.m. – 4 p.m. at the Sexual Health Clinic, 280 S. Decatur Blvd., Las Vegas, NV 89107. Free testing will also be available at the Fremont Public Health Center, 2830 E. Fremont St., Las Vegas, NV 89104, from 1 – 5 p.m. No appointments are needed, but clients must be asymptomatic. Additional testing for syphilis, gonorrhea and chlamydia is also available. Visit the [Sexual Health Clinic](#) page on SNHD’s website for more information.

SNHD’s Sexual Health Outreach and Prevention Program (SHOPP) offers no-cost HIV/STI screenings as part of Sexually Transmitted Infection Express Testing on a year-round basis:

- Main Public Health Center, 280 S. Decatur, Las Vegas, NV 89107; Monday – Thursday, 7:30 a.m. – 4:30 p.m.
- Fremont Public Health Center, 2830 E. Fremont St., Las Vegas, NV 89104; Friday, 7:30 a.m. – 4:30 p.m.

Free HIV testing is available in the Arleen Cooper Community Health Center at The Center, 401 S. Maryland Parkway, Las Vegas, NV 89101. Hours are 9 a.m. – 5:30 p.m. Monday – Thursday and 9 a.m. – 2 p.m. on Fridays and Saturdays. Appointments are preferred, but walk-ins are accepted.

SNHD’s Collect2Protect program provides free at-home HIV tests, providing a convenient and private testing option. The kits are available on the [Collect2Protect](#) page.

CredibleMind

The Southern Nevada Health District is partnering with CredibleMind, an online digital mental health platform, to provide the community with free and confidential access to a large library of mental health and well-being resources. The site is available to the public at ClarkCountyThrive.crediblemind.com.

With the growing demand for mental and behavioral health services, this platform provides credible, evidence-based mental health and wellness information along with tools and resources designed to build individual and community resilience. At the CredibleMind platform, Clark County residents will find over a dozen scientifically reviewed assessments to help users understand mental health topics such as anxiety, depression, burnout, substance use, and identify well-being support services. Information and resources are available in English and Spanish.

There are also thousands of vetted apps, podcasts, articles and videos across a range of mental health and wellness topics, as well as tools that can help users focus on building skills to improve their mental and emotional well-being at work, home and in the community.

Users of the site must be 13 years of age or older to create an account. Users who are 18 years of age and older who create an account and take the Mental Health Check-in assessment, will be entered to win a \$100 gift card from CredibleMind. Account activation is not required to access the site and its resources. All information provided is confidential.

Mosquito Surveillance Update

The Southern Nevada Health District is reporting 14 cases of West Nile virus among Clark County residents this year. Nine patients were diagnosed with the neuroinvasive form of the illness, and five had the non-neuroinvasive form of the illness. Nine patients were hospitalized and there were no deaths.

As of July 22, 366 mosquito pools (11,513 mosquitoes from 44 ZIP codes) tested positive for West Nile virus. Twenty-one mosquito pools, (583 mosquitoes from eight ZIP codes) tested positive for the virus that causes St. Louis encephalitis.

Public health officials continue to encourage everyone to take steps to protect themselves. The risk of mosquito-borne illnesses can be reduced through preventive measures. The Health District's Fight the Bite campaign calls on people to:

- **Eliminate Standing Water:** Remove 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:** Use Environmental Protection Agency (EPA)-registered insect repellent. Wear loose-fitting, long-sleeved shirts and pants.
- **Report Mosquito Activity:** Call the Health District's surveillance program at (702) 759-1633. To report a green pool, people should [contact](#) their local code enforcement agency.

Both St. Louis Encephalitis and West Nile virus are spread to people by the bite of an infected mosquito. Most people infected with the virus will not develop symptoms and their cases will go unreported. Some people may develop a neuroinvasive form of the illnesses that cause encephalitis (inflammation of the brain) or meningitis (inflammation of the membranes surrounding the brain and spinal cord).

In addition to taking precautions to prevent mosquito bites, the Health District reminds the public of the dangers posed by extreme heat:

- Drink water even if you don't feel thirsty.
- Limit intake of alcoholic beverages.
- Always carry plenty of water with you and a mobile phone.
- Remember to "look before you lock." Children should never be left alone in a vehicle for any amount of time, even for a quick errand or quick trip into the home.
- Remember to never leave pets unattended in a car.
- Dress for hot weather. Clothing that is loose, lightweight and light-colored reflects heat and sunlight.
- Use sunscreen with a high SPF to protect against sunburn and skin cancer.
- Look in on friends and family, especially the elderly who may need help adjusting to the heat.
- Limit errands and outdoor activities to before noon or in the evening to avoid being out during the hottest part of the day.
- Updated cooling station information is available at <https://helphopehome.org/get-help/>.

Health District Fight the Bite tips and resources are available at www.southernnevadahealthdistrict.org/programs/mosquito-surveillance/mosquito-bite-prevention/ or on the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention website at 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/.

More information and extreme heat resources are available at www.SNHD.info/BeattheHeatSNV.

Previously released news releases regarding mosquito surveillance updates and extreme heat are linked below:

[June 26, 2024: First confirmed West Nile virus cases of the season reported](#)

[June 10, 2024: More West Nile virus positive mosquitoes found in Southern Nevada](#)

[May 24, 2024: Early detection of West Nile Virus mosquitoes in Southern Nevada](#)

[June 3, 2024: Safety Tips Offered for Upcoming Heat Warning](#)

Health District offers back-to-school vaccinations

The school year begins Monday, August 12, and the Southern Nevada Health District (SNHD) is reminding parents and guardians to ensure their children are immunized before the school year starts. SNHD encourages parents and guardians to beat the back-to-school rush and make an appointment now for their kindergartners, 7th and 12th graders at one of its immunization clinics for their mandatory school vaccines.

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 2024-2025 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 CCSD's [Student Enrollment Process](#) for vaccination requirements.

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: August 2 and August 9, 8 a.m. – 4:30 p.m.
Saturday: August 10, 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 29; August 5 and August 12, 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.)

To make an appointment, call (702) 759-0850 or visit 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 \$22 per person for one vaccine and \$10 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:

- July 10, July 17, July 24 and July 31, 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 students 11-18 years of age (Tdap, MenACWY and HPV) are available at the following locations. Parents and guardians of children younger than 11, can make appointments by calling (702) 759-0850 or visiting www.snhd.info/bts.

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

- Tuesday – Friday, July 30 – August 15, 8 a.m. – 4 p.m.
- Open to students ages 11 – 18
- Appointments are required; call (702) 759-0850 or visit www.snhd.info/bts.

Boulevard Mall (in El Mercado), 3528 S. Maryland Parkway, Suites 208-210, Las Vegas, NV 89169

- August 1, 2, 3, 8, 9, 10 and 15, 11 a.m. – 4 p.m.
- Open to students ages 11 – 18
- Appointments are required; call (702) 759-1910 or visit www.snhd.info/bts.

Parents vaccinating a child at an SNHD clinic should bring immunization records. Parents who cannot locate immunization records should contact their 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.

SNHD also offers vaccinations that are recommended for children, but not required by CCSD. These include Meningitis B (MenB), human papillomavirus (HPV) and COVID-19.

- MenB is a rare type of bacterial meningitis, which causes swelling in the membranes and fluid surrounding the brain and spinal cord. All teens may get the MenB vaccine, preferably at 16-18 years old, in order to prevent this uncommon but serious illness for teens and young adults. Parents should discuss the risk and benefits with their vaccine provider.
- HPV is a common virus that infects children, adolescents and adults, and can cause cancers later in life. Approximately 13 million people, including teens, become infected with HPV each year.
- The virus that causes COVID-19 is always changing, and protection from COVID-19 vaccines declines over time. The COVID-19 vaccination continues to protect children against severe disease and hospitalization.

For more information about MenB, HPV or COVID-19, or to schedule a vaccination, visit [Immunization Clinic – Southern Nevada Health District](#) or call (702) 759-0850.

Community Meetings

Week ending 06/23:

Monthly:

- Participated in the Southern Nevada Community Health Center Finance and Audit Committee meeting
- Participated in the Southern Nevada Community Health Center Governing Board meeting
- Participated in the Clark County Medical Society Board of Trustees meeting
- Participated in the individual Southern Nevada District Board of Health Agenda Review meeting with Commissioner Kirkpatrick

Media/Interviews/Panelist/Presenter/Events:

- Attended the Grand Opening and Blessing of the Dignity Health Sahara Wellness Center
- Attended the World Refugee Day “Journeys of Hope” hosted by the Catholic Charities of Southern Nevada and the African Community Center-Las Vegas

Professional Development/Conferences:

- Attended the “Climate Change Topical Group Webinar – Developing Evidence for Climate Change and Health Action” webinar facilitated by the American Public Health Association (APHA)

Ad-hoc Meetings:

- Collaboration meeting with SNHD Executive Leadership Team and UNLV School of Public Health Executive Committee
- Participated in a meeting with Milan Devetak, Director of the African Community Center-Las Vegas regarding Refugee Resettlement Consultation

Week ending 06/16:

Monthly:

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

Media/Interviews/Panelist/Presenter/Events:

- Attended the Nevada Immunization Stakeholder Gathering Session at Dignity Health – St. Rose Dominican Hospital

Professional Development/Conferences:

- 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 “Hepatitis C: Update on Test & Treat Models, Women & Pregnancy” webinar

Ad-hoc Meetings:

- Attended the Joint Interim Standing Committee on Health and Human Services meeting
- Attended Trac-B Exchange with the CDC Director, Dr. Mandy Cohen
- Hosted the CDC Director, Dr. Mandy Cohen, at the Southern Nevada Health District
- Attended UNLV School of Public Health with the CDC Director, Dr. Mandy Cohen
- Attended the CDC Briefing on the Mpox Response on New Modeling

Week ending 06/09:

Monthly:

- Attended the Nevada Public Health Commission meeting

Quarterly:

- Attended the TB Cohort Review 2023 Q1 and Q2
- Attended the Medical Advisory Board meeting
- Attended the State Board of Health meeting

Bi-Annually (every two years):

- Participated in the At-Large Member Selection Committee meeting

Media/Interviews/Panelist/Presenter/Events:

- Interview (in Spanish) with Luz Gray (Cafecito Nevada) on the Beat the Heat initiative

Ad-hoc Meetings:

- Attended Trac-B Exchange in preparation of the visit by the CDC Director
- Participated a meeting with representatives from the Center for Disease Control (CDC) regarding the CDC Director, Dr. Mandy Cohen, visit to Las Vegas