



DATE: September 26, 2024

TO: Southern Nevada District Board of Health Members

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

SUBJECT: District Health Officer Report

Mpox Update

The Southern Nevada Health District continues to report sporadic cases of Mpox in Clark County residents. As of September 2, the Health District has reported seven probable and confirmed Mpox cases in Clark County since January 1, 2024.

There are two types of Mpox, clade I and clade II. Clade I can cause more severe illness and death and is endemic in the Democratic Republic of Congo. There has been transmission to neighboring countries resulting in the current outbreak. **No cases of clade I have been reported in the United States.**

The Health District is reminding the public that Mpox spreads through close or intimate contact, and the most effective way for those at risk to protect themselves is by receiving two doses of the Mpox vaccine if they are eligible. More information about vaccine availability and eligibility is available at www.snhd.info/Mpox. The two-dose vaccine series is safe and effective in lowering the risk of contracting Mpox and reducing the severity of symptoms if one does become infected. Additionally, the vaccine can help prevent Mpox if administered within 14 days after exposure. To date, more than 11,740 doses of the vaccine have been administered in Health District affiliated clinics in Clark County.

People can take additional steps to protect themselves:

- Avoid close contact with individuals exhibiting symptoms of Mpox, including those with rashes or lesions.
- Avoid touching objects, clothing, bedding or materials used by someone with Mpox.
- Watch for signs and symptoms for 21 days if exposed to Mpox and visit a health care provider.

More information about Mpox is available on the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention website at www.cdc.gov/poxvirus/mpox.

Raw Milk

The Health District is alerting people to the health risks associated with consuming raw milk, following an increase in the illegal sale of these products in Clark County. The sale of raw milk, and its products, is illegal in Clark County due to serious health concerns.

The Health District advises residents to only consume pasteurized milk, which is treated to eliminate germs that can cause severe illness. Raw milk can be contaminated with bacteria like *salmonella*, *E. coli*, *listeria*, *brucella* and *campylobacter*, all of which can lead to severe health complications or even death. Some groups are especially vulnerable to these illnesses, including children under 5, older adults over 65, pregnant people, and those with weakened immune systems.

When the Health District discovers raw milk being sold, the milk is confiscated and discarded. Repeated violations can result in enforcement actions, including the potential revocation of health permits. Anyone who observes raw milk being sold for human consumption in Clark County is encouraged to report it by calling the Nevada Department of Agriculture at (775) 353-3607. Anyone who becomes ill after consuming raw milk should call (702) 759-1300 or submit a report using the [Foodborne Illness Complaint Form](#). The Health District strongly advises the public not to consume raw milk from any animal.

For more information about raw milk and the health risks associated with it, visit the FDA's website: [Raw Milk Misconceptions and Danger of Raw Milk Consumption](#). For more information about dairy sales in Nevada, visit the Nevada Department of Agriculture website at [Dairy Distribution and Marketing \(nv.gov\)](#).

National Preparedness Month

September is National Preparedness Month, a time to spotlight the critical importance of being ready for unexpected disasters. Potential emergencies in Southern Nevada could include natural disasters such as earthquakes, floods, wildfires, extreme heat, and storms as well as intentional acts. The Health District encourages everyone to assess their personal and community readiness for emergencies that could strike at any time.

The Health District has a Disaster Supplies & Preparedness Calendar to help families develop their plans and gather supplies over the course of a year. Kits should be developed to meet the needs of individual families, especially if they include older adults, infants, people with special needs, and pets. To access the calendar, visit [Supply Calendar – Southern Nevada Health District](#). In collaboration with local municipalities, the Health District's Office of Public Health Preparedness (OPHP) works to ensure public health and safety during crises. The OPHP and the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) suggest the following preparedness steps:

- **Create a disaster plan:** Develop a detailed plan for families that includes evacuation routes, emergency contacts and essential supplies.
- **Assemble a disaster kit:** Put together a kit with vital supplies like food, water, first aid items, a flashlight, a battery-powered radio and a change of clothes. The disaster kit should last for at least 72 hours, and it should be checked and updated twice a year; perhaps at the beginning and end of Daylight Savings Time.
- **Stay informed:** Keep up with local weather alerts, emergency notifications and community resources. Sign up for emergency alerts and follow official government channels for the most accurate information.

The CDC notes that individuals with disabilities or special needs may face extra challenges during emergencies. First responders might not be able to reach them promptly, and medical services could be stretched thin. It's important for disaster preparedness plans to cover aspects like

transportation, evacuation strategies, and other relevant concerns. For more details, visit [Emergency Preparedness for People with Disabilities](#).

Pet owners should make sure their pets are part of their emergency preparedness plans. Disaster kits should contain essential items for pets, such as food and water, a crate or carrier, a leash, medications, a copy of their veterinary records, and recent photos. Ensure pets wear a collar with ID and emergency contact information and consider having them microchipped as an extra precaution. Per a recent city ordinance, all dogs or cats over the age of four months residing in the city of Las Vegas must have a microchip.

Additionally, the Southern Nevada Community Preparedness App can help with preparing plans for a disaster. The app allows users to:

- Share their status with selected contacts with the push of a button.
- Receive critical emergency alerts via push notification.
- Locate Southern Nevada's emergency shelters.
- View up-to-date evacuation route maps.
- Get the latest news and weather for Southern Nevada.
- Create a personalized Emergency Preparedness Plan by answering five basic questions.

To download the app, visit [Office of Public Health Preparedness – Southern Nevada Health District](#). For more information on National Preparedness Month, visit [National Preparedness Month | Ready.gov](#).

Pop-up Produce Stands

As the fall season approaches, the Pop-Up Produce Stands return to Las Vegas on September 3, giving people increased access to affordable, locally grown, organic fresh fruits and vegetables. The pop-ups are scheduled for six dates in September, October and November at the Bonneville Transit Center (BTC) in Las Vegas. Customers can use their SNAP/EBT card, cash, debit or credit cards.

The pop-up stands are aimed at helping address the problem of food insecurity in Southern Nevada. Approximately 330,757 people in Clark County — 14.6% of the population — are food insecure, meaning they are unable to access or afford enough nutritious food for their overall health and well-being. According to the U.S. Department of Agriculture, 12.8% of U.S. households experienced food insecurity during 2022.

The produce stands program is a partnership among the Health District's Office of Chronic Disease Prevention and Health Promotion, the Regional Transportation Commission of Southern Nevada (RTC), Prevail Marketplace and Together We Can's Veggie Buck Truck. There were six pop-up stands at the BTC in April, May and June.

People can visit the Pop-Up Produce stands at the BTC, located at 101 E. Bonneville Ave., Las Vegas, NV 89101, from noon to 3 p.m., or while supplies last on upcoming dates:

- Tuesday, October 1
- Tuesday, October 8
- Tuesday, November 5
- Tuesday, November 12

Last spring's pop-up stands resulted in nearly 1,425 pounds of produce sold. About 20% of the spring 2024 market sales were 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.

Mosquito Surveillance Update

As of September 9, Health District Environmental Health staff have set 2,568 traps throughout Clark County and submitted 2,785 sample pools, representing 43,126 mosquitoes, to the Southern Nevada Public Health Laboratory for analysis. Of the sample pools submitted, 387 tested positive for West Nile virus in 46 ZIP codes and 21 tested positive for St. Louis encephalitis in eight ZIP codes.

In Clark County, there have been 26 cases of West Nile virus reported in humans, 14 neuroinvasive cases — all requiring hospitalization — and 12 non-neuroinvasive cases. There have been no reported deaths this season. 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.

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). 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 Health District continues to urge people to Fight the Bite and reduce the risk of mosquito-borne illnesses by taking preventive measures:

- 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/ and 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/.

Community Meetings

Week ending 09/01:Professional Development/Conferences:

- Attended the “Influenza A (H5N1) Response Call for Public Health and One Health Partners” call facilities by the Centers for Disease Control (CDC)

Ad-hoc Meetings:

- Meeting with Commissioner Kirkpatrick, Julia Peek and Vinson Guthreau

Week ending 08/25:Monthly:

- Participated in the individual Southern Nevada District Board of Health Agenda Review meeting with Councilwoman Brune, Councilman Seebeck, Councilman Black, Bobbette Bond, and Mayor Hardy
- 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 Southern Nevada District Board of Health meeting
- Participated in the Local Health Official Monthly Engagement meeting facilitated by National Association of County and City Health Officials (NACCHO)

Professional Development/Conferences:

- Attended the Southern Nevada Employer Health Summit on "Address Employers Challenges with High-Cost Claims & Chronic Disease" facilitated by Las Vegas HEALS
- Attended the HIV Research Round-Up: Results from the International AIDS Conference that Matter webinar

Ad-hoc Meetings:

- Participated in the Collective Bargaining Agreement Signing Party with members of the SNHD Leadership, Board of Health and SEIU 1107

Week ending 08/18:Bi-weekly:

- Attended the CDC Invitation: New Biweekly Influenza A (H5N1) Response Call for Public Health and One Health Partners

Monthly:

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

Professional Development/Conferences:

- Attended a “White House Briefing on the Inflation Reduction Act Negotiated Drug Prices Announcement” webinar

Ad-hoc Meetings:

- Attended the Joint Interim Standing Committee on Health and Human Services meeting
- Attended a meeting with Bradley Mayer to discuss legislative priorities
- Attended a meeting with state representatives to discuss ELC funding

Week ending 08/11:Monthly:

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

Quarterly:

- Participated in the Nevada State EMS Advisory Committee meeting

- Attended the Medical Advisory Board meeting

Media/Interviews/Panelist/Presenter/Events:

- Welcome message at the Health District After Dark “Health Equity in Sin City”

Professional Development/Conferences:

- Attended the “Exchange Session 2” webinar facilitated by the Providers Clinical Support System
– Medications for Opioid Use Disorder

Ad-hoc Meetings:

- 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