




**DATE:** August 28, 2025

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

**FROM:** Cassius Lockett, PhD, District Health Officer 

**SUBJECT:** District Health Officer Report

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### **Public Health Funding**

The State of Nevada Board of Examiners met on August 7. During the meeting, interlocal agreements with local public health agencies were approved to provide ongoing public health services, including **\$10,786,480 for the Southern Nevada Health District**. This allocation of state general funds is the result of years of work by health agencies and community partners to secure dedicated funding for sustaining and supporting public health services.

In the 2023 legislative session, a one-time allocation provided support for expanding the Health District's disease surveillance workforce, strengthening STI response and outreach, supporting youth vaping prevention, and advancing the much-needed expansion of the Southern Nevada Public Health Laboratory. The funding included in the current state budget continues that momentum by supporting a new Healthcare-Associated Infection Prevention Program and helping preserve essential laboratory and epidemiological capacity as federal funding declines.

### **Measles Detected in Wastewater**

On August 7, the Health District announced that measles virus had been detected in wastewater in Clark County, the first local wastewater detection of the virus. As of August 12, no confirmed measles cases have been reported in Clark County, and a subsequent wastewater sample was negative. A single wastewater detection does not mean there are cases or that community transmission is occurring. However, the Health District is urging residents—especially families with school-age children—to ensure they are up to date on their MMR vaccinations.

Measles is a highly contagious virus that spreads through coughing and sneezing. Early symptoms include high fever, cough, runny nose and red, watery eyes, followed by a rash that usually starts on the face and spreads downward. People who develop symptoms should stay home, avoid contact with others and notify their health care provider before visiting any medical facility. This helps prevent the potential spread of illness in waiting rooms or clinical settings.

Wastewater surveillance can detect viral genetic material that is shed by infected individuals. A positive detection could indicate an undiagnosed or unreported measles infection in the area. Some health departments have identified human cases following similar detections. Clark County has not had a confirmed case of measles in a resident since 2018. In April 2024, the Health District reported a measles exposure from a visitor to the area, but no local cases resulted from that incident.

### **National Health Center Week**

The Health District's Southern Nevada Community Health Center joined health centers across the country in recognizing National Health Center Week from August 3-9. The annual observance highlights the essential role community health centers play in improving access to affordable, high-quality health care for underserved populations.

Community health centers play a vital role in the U.S. health care system, delivering care to more than 32.5 million people nationwide. This includes 419,000 veterans, one in eight children, 1.4 million people experiencing homelessness and 3.8 million seniors. Today, one in 10 Americans receives care at a health center. Of those patients, 18% are uninsured and 50% are insured by Medicaid. Community health centers are innovators and problem solvers that improve health outcomes in medically underserved communities by reaching people excluded from the conventional health care system. The Southern Nevada Community Health Center continues to meet those needs through expanded services, improved access and a commitment to patient-centered care.

To celebrate the week, the Southern Nevada Community Health Center hosted events to engage the community and recognize patients and staff. Giveaways were available for patients at both Community Health Center locations, and a Booster Seat Giveaway was hosted at the Fremont Public Health Center on Wednesday, August 6. The event raised awareness about Nevada's booster seat law, which requires children to remain in booster seats until they are 4 feet 9 inches tall. While many children outgrow a car seat by age 4, most are not tall enough for a seat belt alone until at least the third grade. Booster seats were provided for free, and certified car technicians were onsite to help families understand when it is safe to transition from a booster to a seat belt. The event was supported by the Healthy Living Institute at UMC, Car Seats for Christy—founded in memory of a child killed in a crash more than 20 years ago—and Safe Kids Clark County, which has led statewide car seat safety efforts for more than three decades.

### **West Nile Virus**

On July 29, the Southern Nevada Health District identified the first West Nile virus-positive mosquito pool of the season in the 89123 ZIP code. The Health District reminds residents to take precautions to "Fight the Bite" and help reduce the impact of mosquitoes in the community.

West Nile virus activity in Clark County reached unprecedented levels in Clark County in 2019, with 43 reported human cases. Activity was minimal in 2021, 2022 and 2023. In 2024, 26 human cases were reported. In addition to identifying mosquitoes that commonly carry West Nile virus, the Health District is monitoring the presence of *Aedes aegypti* mosquitoes, which can transmit Zika, dengue and chikungunya. Unlike most mosquitoes, *Aedes aegypti* are aggressive daytime biters that prefer humans to birds. They are persistent ankle-biters, and a single female can bite multiple times. These mosquitoes breed in small containers that collect rain or irrigation water—such as children's toys, wheelbarrows, plant saucers and even bottle caps.

The Health District's Fight the Bite campaign encourages people to:

- Eliminate standing water around their homes.
- Use an FDA-registered insect repellent and wear protective clothes.
- Report mosquito activity to the Health District's surveillance program at (702) 759-1633.
- Report green pools to local code enforcement agencies.

Additional resources and contact information are available on the Health District [website](#). For more information about mosquito surveillance, visit [www.snhd.info/mosquito](http://www.snhd.info/mosquito).

## **Community Meetings**

### **Week ending 08/03:**

#### **Biweekly:**

- Facilitated one-on-one meetings with Direct Reports (Gonzales, Mangla, Nicolson, Saner, Yapjoco)
- Attended the CDC Response All-STLT Update call
- Facilitated one-on-one meeting with EIS Officer

#### **Monthly:**

- Participated in the Nevada Association of Local Health Officials (NALHO) meeting
- Participated in the Informatics Department leadership meeting

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

- Attended the 2025 HL7 International Fast Healthcare Interoperability Resources (FHIR) Training for Public Health virtual webinars
- Attended the Innovative Funding Strategies for Workforce Development webinar facilitated by NACCHO

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

- Attended the Nevada Health Authority (NVHA) Stakeholder Update Workshop
- Attended the Legislative Session Recap for Public Health virtual meeting
- Attended a virtual demonstration for Gravity by Innovaccer
- Facilitated a meeting with representatives from Clark County Detention Center and NaphCare Correctional Health regarding COVID
- Attended the Inaugural Youth Advisory Council Orientation and Meeting

### **Week ending 07/27:**

#### **Biweekly:**

- Facilitated the Health Executive Council meeting
- Facilitated one-on-one meetings with Direct Reports (Anderson-Fintak, Saxton, Trujillo, Zhang)
- Attended the CDC National Measles Response call
- Facilitated the EIS check-in meeting
- Attended the SNHD/Accela Executive Touchpoint call

#### **Monthly:**

- Participated in the Nevada Public Health Association (NPHA) Coordination call
- Participated in the individual Southern Nevada District Board of Health Agenda Review meeting with Commissioner Becker, Councilwoman Larson, Mayor Pro Tem Gallo, Bobbette Bond, Mayor Hardy
- Participated in the Clark County Medical Society Board of Trustees 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)

#### **Quarterly:**

- Participated in the Community Health Division leadership meeting
- Facilitated a one-on-one meeting with Dr. Robin Carter (Medical Director/Chief Medical Officer)

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

- Attended the 2026 Community Health Improvement Plan (CHIP) Kick-off meeting
- Facilitated an internal meeting regarding lab test pricing

**Week ending 07/20:**Biweekly:

- Attended the CDC Response All-STLT Update call

Monthly:

- Participated in the Southern Nevada Community Health Center Governing Board meeting

Quarterly:

- Participated in the Public Health Advisory Board meeting

Professional Development/Conferences:

- Attended the 2025 NACCHO 360 Conference

Ad-hoc Meetings:

- Attended the Silver State Health Improvement Plan Special Session: Public Health Infrastructure

**Week ending 07/13:**Biweekly:

- Facilitated the Health Executive Council meeting
- Facilitated one-on-one meetings with Direct Reports (Anderson-Fintak, Saxton, Trujillo, Zhang)
- Attended the CDC National Measles Response call
- Facilitated the EIS check-in meeting
- Attended the SNHD/Accela Executive Touchpoint call

Monthly:

- Attended the Big Cities Health Coalition (BCHC) Fast Healthcare Interoperability Resources (FHIR) Forum
- Participated in the BCHC Monthly Member meeting

Media/Interviews/Panelist/Presenter/Events:

- Interview with Mary Hynes (Review-Journal) regarding measles follow-up

Ad-hoc Meetings:

- Facilitated an internal meeting regarding the NACCHO Local Health Department Profile Survey
- Attended the 2025 F1 Kickoff Meeting
- Attended a meeting with Jamie Sorenson (Clark County) regarding the Mobile Medical Outreach Team Project
- Attended a meeting with representatives from the DPBH-NDHHS regarding SHARP1 and SHARP2 Funding & HAI Program Transition

**Week ending 07/06:**Biweekly:

- Facilitated one-on-one meetings with Direct Reports (Gonzales, Mangla, Saner, Smith, Trujillo)
- Attended the CDC Response All-STLT Update call
- Facilitated one-on-one meeting with EIS Officer

Monthly:

- Participated in the Monthly Leadership Finance meeting

Professional Development/Conferences:

- Attended the Enhancing Care and Services for Mental Health and Substance Use Disorder virtual workshop facilitated by the National Academies of Sciences, Engineering, and Medicine

Ad-hoc Meetings:

- Facilitated the New Board of Health Member Orientation
- Facilitated an internal meeting with leadership from SNCHC, Finance and Informatics regarding Asset Mapping and Expense Tracking
- Facilitated an internal meeting with leadership from EH, IT and Informatics regarding Accela
- Attended an internal meeting regarding F1 2024 Debrief and 2025 Preparation