



DATE: September 25, 2025

TO: Southern Nevada District Board of Health Members

FROM: Cassius Lockett, PhD, District Health Officer 

SUBJECT: District Health Officer Report

COVID-19 Vaccine update

Recommended seasonal vaccines are now available at Southern Nevada Health District Immunization Clinics. As of September 11, the Health District has received updated COVID-19 vaccines for clients 5 years and older with private insurance and for adults with Medicaid. Updated COVID-19 vaccines for uninsured and underinsured individuals and those that receive vaccine from the Vaccines for Children (VFC) program or the federal Section 317 program will be available once they can be ordered following the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention's (CDC) Advisory Committee on Immunization Practices (ACIP) meeting later this month. Flu and RSV vaccines are currently available for eligible individuals.

Clients with private insurance are advised to confirm coverage with their health insurance provider. Vaccines for people without insurance or who are underinsured is expected in the coming weeks.

Flu and RSV vaccine and RSV monoclonal antibodies are also available at Health District clinics for recommended and eligible groups.

Seasonal vaccines are available at all Health District Immunization Clinics by appointment. Most health plans, including Medicare and Medicaid, cover recommended vaccines. Uninsured children and adults may qualify for free vaccines through VFC or Section 317. To make an appointment, go to www.snhd.info/immunizations or call (702) 759-0850.

Clinic locations:

- Main Public Health Center, 280 S. Decatur Blvd., Las Vegas, NV 89107
- East Las Vegas Public Health Center, 2950 E. Bonanza Rd., Las Vegas, NV 89101
- Henderson Public Health Center, 220 E. Horizon Dr., Suites A & C, Henderson, NV 89015
- Mesquite Public Health Center/Jimmie Hughes Campus, 150 N. Yucca St., Suites 3 & 4, Mesquite, NV 89027

More information about clinic hours and services: www.southernnevadahealthdistrict.org/about-us/maps/

Childhood Obesity Awareness Month

September is Childhood Obesity Awareness Month, an opportunity to highlight how families can support healthier habits and help children grow up strong. The Southern Nevada Health District's Office of Chronic Disease Prevention and Health Promotion, in partnership with the Partners for a Healthy Nevada Coalition, encourages families to adopt the 5-2-1-0 guidelines—a set of simple, science-backed steps that can make a big difference in kids' long-term health.

The 5-2-1-0 daily guidelines are easy to remember and even easier to start:

- 5 fruits and vegetables each day
- 2 hours or less of recreational screen time
- 1 hour of physical activity
- 0 sugary drinks — choose water instead

These healthy habits aren't just for children—they benefit the whole family. Throughout September, the Health District and its partners will host events and resources to help families get started. The [Get Healthy Clark County](#) website and the Spanish-language [Viva Saludable](#) offer activities, tools and ideas to support family wellness goals.

Obesity is a complex, chronic disease that often begins in childhood. In Clark County, about one in six high school students has obesity, and about one in three Nevada kindergartners starts school either overweight or living with obesity. Children with obesity are more likely to develop serious, long-term health issues such as type 2 diabetes, heart disease or high blood pressure later in life.

Nationally, nearly 20% of children and teens — about 14.7 million — have obesity. The prevalence of obesity is even higher in some racial and ethnic groups, underscoring the role of broader factors like access to nutritious foods, safe places to play, housing stability and quality education. For example, 26% of Hispanic children and 25% of non-Hispanic Black children in the United States have obesity, compared with 17% of non-Hispanic white children and 9% of non-Hispanic Asian children.

The Health District offers free, local resources available to help families take the first step toward healthier living. To learn more, visit [GetHealthyClarkCounty.org](https://gethealthyclarkcounty.org) or <https://vivasaludable.org/>, or call (702) 759-1270.

Nevada State University Becomes a Tobacco-free Campus

On Monday, August 25, the first day of the fall semester, Nevada State University joined more than 2,100 colleges and universities nationwide—including the University of Nevada, Las Vegas and the University of Nevada, Reno—that have adopted 100% tobacco-free campus policies.

The smoke-free and tobacco-free campus policy, approved by Nevada State University (NSU) leadership in spring 2025, applies to all students, faculty, staff and visitors on campus property. This includes all indoor and outdoor campus spaces, sidewalks, parking lots and university-owned or leased vehicles.

This initiative is led by the Breathe with Ease team, part of the university's Sustainability Council, in collaboration with the Southern Nevada Health District, Truth Initiative and a coalition of campus and community partners. These include Nevada State University's Finance and Business office, Division of Culture, Planning & Policy, Student Association, Faculty Senate, Classified Employees and Grant Awards office as well as the Nevada Cancer Coalition, Nevada Tobacco Control & Smoke-Free Coalition, American Lung Association, American Heart Association, American Cancer Society Cancer Action Network, Nevada Minority Health & Equity Coalition and the Nevada Public Health Association.

The policy prohibits all forms of smoking, tobacco use, marijuana use and nicotine products, including but not limited to:

- Cigarettes and cigars (commercially or self-rolled)
- Pipes, hookahs and water pipes
- Electronic smoking devices, including electronic cigarettes and vape pens
- Bidis (hand-rolled, flavored cigarettes) and kreteks (clove cigarettes)
- Smokeless tobacco (such as snuff, snus and chew)
- Cannabis/marijuana in all forms

While the policy does not require individuals to quit smoking or using tobacco products, NSU is committed to supporting those who wish to stop. Free cessation resources are available through the Nevada Tobacco Quitline at 1-800-QUIT-NOW (1-800-784-8669) or nevada.quitlogix.org. Visit the NSU website at www.nevadastate.edu/policy/current/tobacco-electronic-smoking-devices-on-university-premises/ to learn more about its policy and access resources on how to quit.

International Overdose Awareness Day

The Southern Nevada Health Consortium hosted the 9th Annual International Overdose Awareness Day event on Saturday, August 30, at the Foundation for Recovery, located at 4800 S. Alpine Place, Las Vegas, NV 89108. The event honored those who have died or suffered permanent injury from overdose, reduced stigma surrounding drug-related deaths, and raised awareness about overdose prevention and drug policy.

The event was open to the public and featured local vendors, overdose prevention training, naloxone distribution, food, and live entertainment. A vigil was held to remember lives lost and celebrate those who have survived an overdose. A speaker panel also shared personal stories, including perspectives from a family member, a first responder, and a survivor. A “Soles for Souls” exhibit displayed shoes representing individuals who died from overdose in the past year. Attendees were encouraged to donate shoes, which were given to local charities. Sponsors for this year’s event were the Southern Nevada Health Consortium, Southern Nevada Health District, Comprehensive Treatment Centers, Southern Nevada Harm Reduction Alliance, the Foundation for Recovery and the PACT Coalition.

Overdose Statistics in Clark County

In 2024, Clark County reported 802 confirmed drug overdose deaths, representing a nearly 16% increase compared to 2023. Opioids, both prescription and illicit, were involved in 67.5% of these fatalities. Since 2018, the opioid-involved overdose mortality rate has increased by 115%, reaching 22.3 deaths per 100,000 residents in 2024. The highest burden was concentrated in ZIP code 89101 with a mortality rate of 120 deaths per 100,000 residents. Fentanyl remains the primary driver of the local opioid epidemic, with fentanyl-related deaths increasing 92.7% between 2020 and 2023.

Surveillance data indicate that the fatal overdoses peaked during the summer months (June-August) and were lowest in November. Demographic distribution shows that men accounted for 70.2% of overdose deaths, and the largest proportion of cases occurred among non-Hispanic white individuals.

For more information on substance use in Southern Nevada, visit the Health District’s [Substance Use Dashboard](#).

Community Meetings

Week ending 08/31:

Biweekly:

- Attended the CDC Response All-STLT Update call
- Facilitated one-on-one meetings with Direct Reports (Gonzales, Mangla, Nicolson, Pickering, Saxton, Smith, Trujillo)
- Attended the SNHD/Accela Executive Touchpoint call

Monthly:

- Participated in the individual Southern Nevada District Board of Health Agenda Review meeting with Councilwoman Brune, Councilwoman Gallo, Councilwoman Summers-Armstrong, Commissioner Becker, Scott Nielson, Councilwoman Larson, Mayor Hardy
- Participated in the Informatics Department leadership meeting
- Participated in the Nevada Association of Local Health Officials (NALHO) 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)
- Participated in the 2nd BCHC Monthly Member meeting

Quarterly:

- Participated in the Environmental Health Managers meeting

Professional Development/Conferences:

- Attended the “EIS Supervisor Seminar: Surveillance CAL, DWD Quality Science Standards, eFMS Activity Review Demo” facilitated by the CDC

Week ending 08/24:

Biweekly:

- Facilitated the Health Executive Council meeting
- Facilitated one-on-one meetings with Direct Reports (Anderson-Fintak, Trujillo)
- Attended the SNHD/Accela Executive Touchpoint call

Monthly:

- Participated in the Nevada Public Health Association (NPHA) Coordination call
- Participated in the Southern Nevada Community Health Center Governing Board meeting
- Participated in the individual Southern Nevada District Board of Health Agenda Review meeting Mayor Pro Tem Black and Commissioner Kirkpatrick
- Participated in the Clark County Medical Society Board of Trustees meeting

Bimonthly:

- Participated in the Southern Nevada Community Health Center Finance and Audit Committee meeting

Quarterly:

- Participated in the Las Vegas BioWatch Advisory Committee (LVBAC) meeting

Media/Interviews/Panelist/Presenter/Events:

- Speaker at the Barbershop (BSHOP) and Beauty Shop (BeSHOP) Partner Training and Appreciation Luncheon

Professional Development/Conferences:

- Attended the “Navigating Landmark Policy Changes: Strategic Responses to the Impact of the One Big Beautiful Bill” webinar facilitated by Thomson Reuters

Ad-hoc Meetings:

- Attended a meeting with Dr. Frank Nemec, Dr. Brad Isaacs (Clark County Medical Society) and Emily Carter (4th year student at the Kirk Kerkorian School of Medicine) regarding Graduate Medical Education Trends
- Attended an internal meeting regarding the ISDS Business Impact Statement and Proposed Regulations

Week ending 08/17:

Biweekly:

- Facilitated one-on-one meetings with Direct Reports (Gonzales, Mangla, Saner, Smith, Trujillo)
- Attended the CDC Response All-STLT Update call
- Attended the SNHD/Accela Executive Touchpoint call

Bimonthly:

- Presented at the Senior Manager meeting

Quarterly:

- Participated in the EIS Supervisory Team meeting

Ad-hoc Meetings:

- Attended a meeting with Amy Hyne-Sutherland (NACO) regarding Foundational Public Health Services (FPHS) capacity and cost assessment tools to determine FTE gaps
- Attended a planning meeting with Nevada GrantLab regarding participation in a healthcare provider convening in Las Vegas, the week of September 22
- Attended an internal meeting regarding the financial implications of the FQHC and recent HRSA changes
- Attended an internal meeting regarding the Informatics team developing (i) an online incident form, (ii) a finance dashboard, and (iii) an asset map.
- Attended the Nevada Health Authority, Nevada Medicaid 1115 SUD Demonstration Waiver Post Award Forum

Week ending 08/10:

Biweekly:

- Facilitated the Health Executive Council meeting, which included the inaugural Gemba Walk
- Facilitated one-on-one meetings with Direct Reports (Anderson-Fintak, Saxton, Smith, 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 Monthly Leadership Finance meeting
- Participated in the BCHC Monthly Member meeting, that included a public benefit presentation with the National Immigration Law Center

Professional Development/Conferences:

- Attended the "Care Plan Training for District Health Officer" facilitated by eClinicalWorks
- Attended the "Clinical Implications of Medetomidine Mixed with Opioids" webinar facilitated by the CDC's Division of Overdose Prevention

Ad-hoc Meetings:

- Attended a meeting with Dr. Casey Barber and Dr. Daniel Gerrity (Southern Nevada Water Authority), Dr. Edwin Oh (UNLV) and representatives from SNHD regarding public health surveillance/response for substance use (Year 2 of the Fund for a Resilient Nevada Opioid Wastewater Monitoring)

- Facilitated an internal meeting regarding recruitment and retention challenges in public health positions
- Attended a meeting with Nevada GrantLab regarding participation in a healthcare provider convening in Las Vegas, the week of September 22
- Participated in a meeting with SNHD Board of Health Chair MPT Scott Black
- Facilitated an internal meeting regarding measles
- Attended a meeting with Congresswoman Dina Titus to discuss public health programs and public health infrastructure
- Attended an internal meeting regarding the Workforce Development Plan
- Attended an internal meeting regarding the SNCHC A3 Project
- Facilitated an internal meeting regarding primary care needs
- Attended the Executive Sync meeting with SNHD and Accela