



Public Health Advisory
An Increase of Aseptic Meningitis Cases Amid Covid19 Outbreak in Clark County
June 9, 2020

Situation

The Southern Nevada Health District (SNHD) is reporting an increase of aseptic meningitis cases from February to April 2020 in Clark County residents. There were 11 cases of aseptic meningitis in 2019 versus 17 cases in 2020 during the same time period. While there is currently no evidence to link this increase to the current COVID-19 pandemic, there has been a published case report of meningitis/encephalitis associated with SARS-CoV-2 infection, with SARS-CoV-2 RNA present in a cerebrospinal fluid specimen, suggesting neurotropic potential of this virus (1). Clark County is continuing to experience community spread of COVID-19 and is alerting healthcare providers to consider testing for SARS-CoV-2 in patients with otherwise unexplained meningitis or encephalitis symptoms.

Symptoms

People with COVID-19 have had a wide range of symptoms reported – ranging from mild symptoms to severe illness.

The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) lists the following symptoms associated with COVID-19, which may appear **2-14 days after exposure to the virus**. People with these symptoms may have COVID-19:

- Fever or chills
- Cough
- Shortness of breath or difficulty breathing
- Fatigue
- Muscle or body aches
- Headache
- New loss of taste or smell
- Sore throat
- Congestion or runny nose
- Nausea or vomiting
- Diarrhea

Patients with COVID-19 have also presented with headache, dizziness, hyposmia, and hypogeusia during the course of illness (2,3). SARS-CoV-2 RNA has additionally been detected in a cerebrospinal fluid specimen of a patient with COVID-19, suggesting the potential for neurotropic involvement (1).

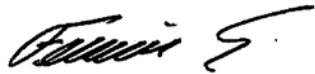
Recommendations for Healthcare Providers

Though there is currently no evidence to suggest that the increase in reported aseptic meningitis cases in Southern Nevada is associated with the COVID-19 pandemic, given the demonstrated

neurotropic potential of SARS-CoV-2 SNHD recommends that providers consider COVID-19 in the differential diagnosis of patients with otherwise unexplained meningitis/encephalitis symptoms.

Please report cases to the SNHD Office of Epidemiology and Disease Surveillance by fax at 702-759-1414, phone at 702-759-1300, or online here:

<https://www.southernnevadahealthdistrict.org/news-info/reportable-diseases/reportable-diseases-form/>



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Health Alert: conveys the highest level of importance; warrants immediate action or attention

Health Advisory: provides important information for a specific incident or situation; may not require immediate action

Health Update: provides updated information regarding an incident or situation; unlikely to require immediate action

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References:

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2. Giacomelli, A., Pezzati, L., Conti, F., Bernacchia, D., Siano, M., Oreni, L., et al., 2020. Self-reported olfactory and taste disorders in SARS-CoV-2 patients: a cross-sectional study [published online ahead of print, 2020 Mar 26]. *Clin Infect Dis* ciaa330.
3. Mao L., Wang M.D., Chen S.H., He Q.W., Chang J., Hong C.D., et al., 2020. Neurological manifestations of hospitalized patients with COVID-19 in Wuhan, China: a retrospective case series study. *MedRxiv* 2020.02.22.20026500.