



Public Health Advisory

Increases in Norovirus Transmission in Clark County, NV 2022

March 18, 2022

Situation:

The Southern Nevada Health District (SNHD) wants to alert medical providers in Clark County of a recent increase in transmission of *Norovirus (NoV)*. The Acute Communicable Disease Control department (ACDC) has seen recent increases in norovirus transmission in Clark County and is currently investigating three unrelated outbreaks of viral gastroenteritis at three different elementary schools within the last 30 days. *NoV* was suspected as the etiological agent in these outbreaks and testing by the Southern Nevada Public Health Laboratory (SNPHL) confirmed *NoV* by RT-PCR from specimens collected from persons associated with each school. In addition to these investigations, ACDC also investigated an outbreak of gastroenteritis in a congregate shelter setting suspected to be caused by norovirus.

Norovirus is responsible for nearly 1 million pediatric medical care visits annually. Children under 5 years old and adults aged 85 years and older are more likely to have an outpatient or emergency department visit than people of other ages. By 5 years of age:

- 1 in 160 will be hospitalized
- 1 in 40 will go to the emergency department
- 1 in 7 will go to an outpatient clinic.

Additional information about *NoV* nationally can be found here: <https://www.cdc.gov/norovirus/trends-outbreaks/burden-US.html>

Recommendations for Health Care Providers:

1. Healthcare providers should report all outbreaks of acute gastroenteritis, including suspected outbreaks of norovirus, to the Division of Disease Surveillance and Control at 702-759-1300, fax to 702-759-1414, or online at <https://www.southernnevadahealthdistrict.org/news-info/reportable-diseases/reportable-diseases-form/>
2. Consider *Norovirus* infection in patients presenting with symptoms of acute gastroenteritis who work at or attend elementary school.
3. Provide information about *Norovirus* infection to patients at risk of becoming exposed. <https://www.southernnevadahealthdistrict.org/Health-Topics/norovirus/>
4. For patients with symptoms that may be related to these outbreaks, consider obtaining a stool sample for additional testing to assist the SNHD outbreak investigation. Contact SNHD at 702-759-1300 for additional information.

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'Fermin Leguen', is written over a light blue background.

Fermin Leguen, MD, MPH
District Health Officer
Southern Nevada Health District

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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Reference: Center for Disease Control: Preventing Norovirus Infection <http://www.cdc.gov/norovirus/preventing-infection.html>