



Public Health Advisory
5/15/2024

Adverse Effects of Counterfeit or Mishandled Botulinum Toxin

SITUATIONAL AWARENESS SUMMARY

Situation: As of May 8, 2024, the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) have received reports of adverse events from 15 persons across 9 states following the administration of botulinum toxin injections. Since the initial advisory release on April 23, 2024, the CDC has excluded 7 persons from 2 states from this count. During 2024, there have been no reported residents in Clark County with botulinum toxin injection symptoms.

- Symptoms reported including symptoms near the injection site include blurred vision and ptosis after facial injection, dry mouth, slurred speech, shortness of breath, fatigue, and generalized weakness.

The Southern Nevada Health District recommends that all providers follow the protocol below:

- ✓ **Consider.** Consider the possibility of adverse effects from botulinum toxin injections:
 - In patients presenting with localized paralysis near the injection site.
- ✓ **Differentiate.** Distinguish between localized adverse effects and early signs of systemic botulism:
 - Assess for symmetry of cranial nerve palsies expected in botulism.
 - Assess for progression of cranial nerve palsies.
- ✓ **Consult.** Call SNHD immediately if you have a suspected case of botulism (do not wait for confirmation):
 - Call the 24-hour public health emergency line: (702) 759-1300.
 - Call for consultation, case reporting, and to request antitoxin if indicated.
- ✓ **Report.** Report to the Southern Nevada Health District:
 - A suspected case of botulism is a clinical and public health emergency. Contact SNHD's 24-hour public health emergency line: (702) 759-1300.
 - Report adverse events related to the use of botulinum toxin injection to FDA's MedWatch Safety Program: <https://www.fda.gov/safety/medwatch-fda-safety-information-and-adverse-event-reporting-program>

Resources:

- 1) <https://www.cdc.gov/botulism/outbreaks/harmful-reactions-botox-injections/details.html>
- 2) Original CDC Health Alert Source: <https://emergency.cdc.gov/han/2024/han00507.asp>

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

280 South Decatur Boulevard, Las Vegas, NV 89107 • Phone (702) 759-1000 • www.snhd.info