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## News Release

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

### **Clark County Health District pre-event smallpox plan approved**

(Las Vegas, Nev., - December 18, 2002) – The Clark County Health District received notification today that its draft pre-event smallpox immunization plan was approved by the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC).

As a result of the approval CDC will soon be contacting the state to schedule delivery of enough smallpox vaccine to initiate the first stage of the plan. This first stage includes vaccinating a core group of public health staff and a core group of healthcare providers.

“We will be working with members of our own organization and local hospitals to identify volunteers who will be carefully screened in order to make certain they are eligible to receive the vaccine,” said Dr. Donald Kwalick, chief health officer for the district.

Vaccinating this group ensures the capability to vaccinate larger numbers of people and to investigate and follow-up any suspected cases of smallpox in a timely manner. Additionally, healthcare staff would be ready to provide care to the first people who may present to a healthcare facility with smallpox.

The Clark County Health District estimates approximately 1000 doses of the vaccine will be needed to complete the first phase of the plan.

While the plan has been approved they are still in draft format and comments and recommendations received from CDC as a result of the review must be addressed by each entity.

For more information contact the Clark County Health District at (702) 383-5015.

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