



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
December 15, 2011

Health District posts interim report on marathon gastrointestinal illnesses

LAS VEGAS - The Southern Nevada Health District today posted its interim report on its website regarding the gastrointestinal illness outbreak following the Sunday, Dec. 4 Rock 'n Roll Las Vegas Marathon. Based on initial test results, the pathogen that caused the outbreak is still undetermined. Additional tests will be conducted and a final report will be posted. The report is available at <http://southernnevadahealthdistrict.org/download/epi/2011-LV-Marathon-Outbreak-Interim-Report.pdf>

The health district began to receive reports of illness on Thursday, Dec. 8 and developed a survey for race participants to complete. To date, more than 1,000 surveys have been submitted to the office of epidemiology with approximately half of them completed by people who became ill and half who did not become ill.

“While our initial testing has been unable to identify the pathogen, our initial analysis of the survey data indicates that the outbreak is most likely infectious in nature,” said Dr. Lawrence Sands, chief health officer. “We are continuing to test the samples we’ve received from runners to identify the cause. At this time, our investigation does not point to water given to runners as the likely source of the infection. Although we might be able to identify the pathogen, we might not be able to identify the source of the infection.”

Updated information about the Southern Nevada Health District can be found on Facebook www.facebook.com/SouthernNevadaHealthDistrict, on YouTube www.youtube.com/SNHealthDistrict or Twitter: www.twitter.com/SNHDinfo. The health district is now available in Spanish on Twitter www.twitter.com/TuSNHD. Don't have a Twitter account? Follow the health district on your phone by texting “follow SNHDinfo” to 40404.