



**DATE:** November 15, 2018

**TO:** Southern Nevada District Board of Health Members

**FROM:** Joseph Iser, MD, DrPH, MSc, Chief Health Officer

**SUBJECT:** Chief Health Officer Report

---

### **Influenza Update**

The Southern Nevada Health District is reporting data collected from local acute care hospitals and other health care providers. Through week 43 of the influenza season (Oct. 27), influenza activity remained low at the local and national level. In the state of Nevada, the geographic spread of influenza was sporadic, and influenza-like illness (ILI) activity level was minimal. During week 43, there were eight influenza-associated hospitalizations reported in Clark County. The proportion of emergency room visits for ILI was 2.2 percent in week 43. Approximately 57 percent of area ER visits for ILI were children under the age of 18. The Health District will continue to update the public on the flu season and encourage people to get vaccinated. Vaccination is recommended for everyone but is especially important for those most at risk for complications from the flu. At-risk groups include pregnant women, people with underlying medical conditions, and people who care for infants younger than 6 months and their family members, as they are too young to receive the vaccine and vulnerable to the virus.

Health District influenza surveillance updates are available at  
<http://www.southernnevadahealthdistrict.org/stats-reports/influenza-surveillance.php>.

### **Community Assessment for Public Health Emergency Response**

The Health District successfully completed approximately 140 neighborhood surveys on Nov. 2-3, as it implemented the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) Community Assessment for Public Health Emergency Response (CASPER) technique to gather information to assist in emergency planning and response efforts. A total of 25 teams from the Southern Nevada Health District interviewed household members in Las Vegas about how extreme heat impacts them and their families. The information used during this CASPER event will assist in emergency planning and response efforts. The goal is to understand how extreme heat affects Clark County residents and how local response agencies and Southern Nevadans can better prepare for such events. In 2017, the Health District reported 123 heat-related deaths among Clark County residents.

Nine survey team members went door-to-door between 10 a.m. and 6 p.m. on Friday, Nov. 2, and 16 teams were active on Saturday, Nov. 3. Participation was voluntary, and the interviews were confidential. The teams did not ask for names or other identifying information. This

process can also be employed during an event to assist the Health District and its response partners to better respond to the community's needs during an emergency or event as it is occurring.

The CASPER toolkit was developed by the CDC's Division of Environmental Hazards and Health Effects/Health Studies Branch to assist federal, state, and local public health agencies in conducting a community needs assessment. The tools are designed to provide accurate and timely data to public health and emergency managers to help them prioritize their responses and make informed decisions regarding the distribution of resources in an emergency. For more information visit the CDC's [Community Assessment for Public Health Emergency Response \(CASPER\)](#) page.

### **Illegal Dumping**

In October, the Health District promoted its Solid Waste Management program and encouraged the public to report illegal dumping activity. Complaints have increased by 28 percent in Clark County from 2016 to 2017. In 2016, the Health District received 1,223 illegal dumping complaints; in 2017 the number of complaints increased to 1,575. Materials that are illegally disposed of include trash, sewage, and hazardous waste. The public often provides vital information to the Health District in its role as the Solid Waste Management Authority for Clark County. The Health District does need key information from the public to follow up on complaints. It provides the following resources and steps to assist the public in completing this process:

- Report illegal dumping by calling (702) 759-0600 or access the online complaint form at [www.snhd.info/complaint](http://www.snhd.info/complaint).
- Required reporting information includes the incident date, the incident location within Clark County, and a description of the material that has been dumped.
- Per Nevada Revised Statute 444, witnesses may be entitled to a \$100 reward if the information provided leads to the assessment of an administrative penalty to the offender. This reward is paid when the penalty is received in full by the Health District.
- Witnesses wishing to be eligible to collect the reward must be willing to sign a voluntary statement and provide testimony at a Solid Waste Management Authority hearing or in court if needed.

More information about illegal dumping and the Solid Waste Management and Compliance Program is available on the Health District's website.

### **Community Meetings**

#### **Week of October 29**

- Participated in the Nevada Public Health Foundation Director's meeting
- Met with Dr. Joseph Wineman, President, Southern Nevada Dental Society regarding antibiotic stewardship
- Met with Tina Dortch, Program Manager, DHHS, Office of Minority Health and Equity, regarding future collaborative opportunities
- Provided media interviews (influenza updates) as required
- Participated in Bloomberg American Health Initiative Quarterly call

- Participated in Nevada Health Authority Conference call
- Participated in Big Cities Health Coalition meeting
- Met with Julia Peek, Deputy Administrator, Nevada Division of Public and Behavioral Health, regarding public health and antibiotic stewardship
- Participated in the Nevada Association of Local Health Officers meeting in Carson City, NV

#### Week of October 15

- Participated in 2018 Advisory Council on the State Program for Wellness and the Prevention of Chronic Disease (ACWCD) meeting
- Met with Dr. Aimee Sisson, regarding Preventive Medicine Residency Program
- Participated in the Clark County Medical Society Board of Trustees meeting
- Participated in the NACCHO Board of Directors meeting
- Met with Nevada Department of Health and Human Services staff regarding possible future collaborative efforts
- Presented “Health Aging and Alzheimer’s Disease” at Mission Possible – Changing the Course of Dementia, a Growing Public Health Crisis webinar
- Participated in Southern Nevada Behavioral Health Policy Board meeting
- Met with staff from Nevadans for the Common Good regarding possible future collaborative efforts
- Participated in the Nevada Public Health Authority (NPHA) Advocacy and Policy Committee monthly meeting
- Met with Tim Burch, Administrator, Clark County Department of Human Services, regarding possible future collaborative efforts
- Met with Elizabeth Mothershed, CDC, Division of Healthcare Quality Promotion regarding the Nevada State Medical Association

#### Week of October 8

- Participated in Robert Wood Johnson Small Grant call
- Participated in preparatory meeting with National Association of County and City Health Officials (NACCHO) staff for webinar presentation

#### Week of October 1

- Met with Todd Sklamberg, CEO, Sunrise Hospital and Medical Center, regarding issues related to Southern Nevada Health District
- Presented at the Health Officers Association of California annual conference
- Participated in the Nevada Public Health Institute meeting
- Participated in the Nevada Health Authority conference call