



**DATE:** February 28, 2019

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

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

**SUBJECT:** Chief Health Officer Report

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### **Influenza Update**

Influenza surveillance for Clark County, Nevada includes data collected from local acute care hospitals and other health care providers. During week 6 (Feb. 3-Feb. 9), influenza activity continued to increase nationally and remained elevated at the local level. In Nevada, the geographic spread of influenza was widespread, but influenza-like illness activity (ILI) was low. In Clark County, 465 influenza-associated hospitalizations have been reported, with 60 percent being people 50 years of age or older. There have been 14 influenza-associated deaths reported, including two deaths in children under the age of 18. The proportion of emergency room and urgent care clinic visits for ILI was 6.6 percent in week 6 which was slightly higher than week 5 (6 percent). Approximately 66 percent of area emergency room and urgent care clinic visits for ILI were made by children under 18 years of age. Influenza A was the dominant type circulating. The Southern Nevada Health District will continue to update the public on the flu season and encourage people to get vaccinated.

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

### **Medical Countermeasure Distribution Tabletop Exercise**

The Division of Strategic National Stockpile (U.S. Department of Health and Human Services, Assistant Secretary for Preparedness and Response (ASPR) conducted a tabletop exercise with the Health District and Nevada Department of Public and Behavioral Health on Feb. 21, 2019. Key stakeholders in the Las Vegas Urban Areas participated in the exercise that covered issues related to delivery, distribution of medical material, and dispensing medical countermeasures related to a biological incident.

### **2019 Legislative Session**

The Health District is monitoring proposed legislation, including bills that would have a direct impact on the agency, would serve to promote public health in the community, or would impact services, programs, or funding. To date, bills have been introduced that would improve immunization exemption tracking, allow students access to sunscreen and protective clothing

while on campus, and the Health District-supported bill to create a dedicated public health improvement fund.

### **Move Your Way**

The Health District's Office of Chronic Disease Prevention and Health Promotion and the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services (DHHS) hosted a free 5k Run/Walk and 1-Mile Family Fun Walk on Saturday, Feb 9 to promote the department's updated physical activity guidelines for children and adults and to launch its new [Move Your Way](#) campaign and website. The event was held in North Las Vegas at Craig Ranch Regional Park. More than 250 people participated in the event including North Las Vegas Mayor John Lee, Councilman and Southern Nevada District Board of Health Vice Chair Scott Black, representatives from the WNBA's Las Vegas Aces, and many more community partners.

The 2<sup>nd</sup> edition of the DHHS [Physical Activity Guidelines for Americans](#) includes physical activity recommendations as well as new information about additional benefits related to brain health and fall-related injuries; immediate and longer-term health benefits for how people feel, function, and sleep; risks of sedentary behavior; guidance for preschool children between the ages of 3 and 5; and tested strategies that can be used to get people to be more active. In 2019, the Health District continues to challenge everyone to become more physically active. The Move Your Way program has planners to help people stay on track to attain better fitness, and the Health District offers additional programs and resources on its website: [www.GetHealthyClarkCounty.org](http://www.GetHealthyClarkCounty.org).

### **Slam Dunk Health Challenge**

The Health District, the Clark County School District (CCSD), and the WNBA's Las Vegas Aces are launching a new program called the Slam Dunk Health Challenge to encourage students to eat healthy and participate in physical activity. The Challenge is open to all CCSD first- through fifth-grade classrooms. Students in participating classrooms will earn points each day for eating fruits and vegetables and being physically active. The program includes resources for teachers including lesson plans, activities, and weekly video segments featuring Las Vegas Aces players and Coach Bill Laimbeer urging students to eat healthy, stay active, and track their progress. Winning classrooms will receive tickets to attend a Las Vegas Aces home game.

The Southern Nevada Health District and the Las Vegas Aces are excited to partner on a program that can help to establish healthy habits in young people's lives.

### **Community Meetings**

#### **Week of January 28**

- Participated in the Nevada Public Health Foundation meeting
- Participated in the NACCHO Nominations Committee meeting
- Participated in the Southern Nevada Behavioral Health Policy Board meeting

#### **Week of January 21**

- Participated in NACCHO Finance Committee Monthly meeting
- Participated in the Facilities Advisory Board meeting
- Met with Rex Archer, Kansas City Health Department regarding public health accreditation

- Met with Scott Sjoqvist related to NACCHO tribal representation

#### Week of January 14

- Participated in the Local Health Authorities preparatory meeting for the Advisory Council on the State Program for Wellness and Prevention of Chronic Disease meeting
- Participated in the Nevada Public Health Institute (NPHI) Health in All Policies meeting
- Participated in the Clark County Medical Society Board of Trustees meeting
- Participated in the Nevada Urban and Rural County Public Health Meeting sponsored by Washoe County Health District in Reno, NV
- Participated in the Nevada State Medical Association Public Health Commission meeting
- Participated in the Nevada Public Health Authority Advocacy and Policy Committee meeting

#### Week of January 7

- Met with Dr. Barbara Atkinson, Planning Dean, UNLV School of Medicine regarding the PM Residency program
- Met with Assemblyman Mike Sprinkle regarding matters related to the Health District
- Met with Senator Julia Ratti regarding matters related to the Health District
- Participated in the Nevada Association of Local Health Officers meeting
- Met with Lori Freeman and Dennis Small from NACCHO
- Participated in Las Vegas 2019 Training Planning call
- Participated in Big Cities Health Coalition (BCHC) Monthly Member call
- Met with Congresswoman Susie Lee regarding matters related to the Health District



## 2019 Legislative Session Update 2/28/2019

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### **Assembly Bill 97 - First Hearing: February 18, 2019**

Summary: Revises provisions relating to certain expenditures of money for public health. (BDR 40-529)

AB97 was presented by Assemblyman Sprinkle and Kevin Dick of Washoe County. The bill would create the Account for Public Health Improvement in the State General Fund. Funds would be administered by the Division of Public and Behavioral Health to the Health Districts each year. An amendment has been introduced to change the wording from "Health Districts" to "Health Authorities" to include Carson City Health and Human Services in the funding allocation.

### **Assembly Bill 123 - First Hearing: February 19, 2019**

Summary: Revises provisions governing the requirements concerning immunizations of pupils for purposes of enrollment in school. (BDR 34-593)

AB123 strengthens the system for tracking exemptions by enhancing reporting to the Division of Public and Behavioral Health. It would increase the Health District's ability to respond and mitigate outbreaks, better identify unimmunized students and protect them and their classmates from disease. It also includes additional measures that create a more standardized process for reporting exemptions.

### **Senate Bill 159: First Hearing: February 20, 2019**

Summary: Requires each public school and private school to adopt a policy concerning safe exposure to the sun. (BDR 34-583)

SB159 allows students to possess and use sunscreen and wear protective clothing to reduce their risk of skin cancer and excessive exposure to ultraviolet radiation. The measure is in keeping with the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention's (CDC) Guidelines for School Programs to Prevent Skin Cancer.

**Senate Bill 171: No hearing currently scheduled**

Summary: Provides for the collection of information from certain providers of health care.  
(BDR 54-73)

The Southern Nevada Health District supports this mandate as chronic disease markers provide vital information about a population's risk for developing chronic diseases as well as increased cancer deaths. Currently, the Division of Public and Behavioral Health relies solely on self-reported data for this information or on medical claims data collected through Medicaid or hospital discharge billing.