



DATE: September 5, 2025

TO: State Board of Health Members

FROM: Cassius Lockett, PhD, District Health Officer

SUBJECT: District Health Officer Report

Public Health Funding

The State of Nevada Board of Examiners met on August 7. During the meeting, interlocal agreements with local public health agencies were approved to provide ongoing public health services, including \$10,786,480 for the Southern Nevada Health District. This allocation of state general funds is the result of years of work by health agencies and community partners to secure dedicated funding for sustaining and supporting public health services.

In the 2023 legislative session, a one-time allocation provided support for expanding the Health District's disease surveillance workforce, strengthening STI response and outreach, supporting youth vaping prevention, and advancing the much-needed expansion of the Southern Nevada Public Health Laboratory. The funding included in the current state budget continues that momentum by supporting a new Healthcare-Associated Infection Prevention Program and helping preserve essential laboratory and epidemiological capacity as federal funding declines.

Measles Detected in Wastewater

On August 7, the Health District announced that measles virus had been detected in wastewater in Clark County, the first local wastewater detection of the virus. As of August 12, no confirmed measles cases have been reported in Clark County, and a subsequent wastewater sample was negative. A single wastewater detection does not mean there are cases or that community transmission is occurring. However, the Health District is urging residents—especially families with school-age children—to ensure they are up to date on their MMR vaccinations.

Measles is a highly contagious virus that spreads through coughing and sneezing. Early symptoms include high fever, cough, runny nose and red, watery eyes, followed by a rash that usually starts on the face and spreads downward. People who develop symptoms should stay home, avoid contact with others and notify their health care provider before visiting any medical facility. This helps prevent the potential spread of illness in waiting rooms or clinical settings.

Wastewater surveillance can detect viral genetic material that is shed by infected individuals. A positive detection could indicate an undiagnosed or unreported measles infection in the area. Some health departments have identified human cases following similar detections. Clark County has not had a confirmed case of measles in a resident since 2018. In April 2024, the Health District reported a measles exposure from a visitor to the area, but no local cases resulted from that incident.

National Health Center Week

The Health District's Southern Nevada Community Health Center joined health centers across the country in recognizing National Health Center Week from August 3-9. The annual observance highlights the essential role community health centers play in improving access to affordable, high-quality health care for underserved populations.

Community health centers play a vital role in the U.S. health care system, delivering care to more than 32.5 million people nationwide. This includes 419,000 veterans, one in eight children, 1.4 million people experiencing homelessness and 3.8 million seniors. Today, one in 10 Americans receives care at a health center. Of those patients, 18% are uninsured and 50% are insured by Medicaid. Community health centers are innovators and problem solvers that improve health outcomes in medically underserved communities by reaching people excluded from the conventional health care system. The Southern Nevada Community Health Center continues to meet those needs through expanded services, improved access and a commitment to patient-centered care.

To celebrate the week, the Southern Nevada Community Health Center hosted events to engage the community and recognize patients and staff. Giveaways were available for patients at both Community Health Center locations, and a Booster Seat Giveaway was hosted at the Fremont Public Health Center on Wednesday, August 6. The event raised awareness about Nevada's booster seat law, which requires children to remain in booster seats until they are 4 feet 9 inches tall. While many children outgrow a car seat by age 4, most are not tall enough for a seat belt alone until at least the third grade. Booster seats were provided for free, and certified car technicians were onsite to help families understand when it is safe to transition from a booster to a seat belt. The event was supported by the Healthy Living Institute at UMC, Car Seats for Christy—founded in memory of a child killed in a crash more than 20 years ago—and Safe Kids Clark County, which has led statewide car seat safety efforts for more than three decades.

West Nile Virus

On July 29, the Southern Nevada Health District identified the first West Nile virus-positive mosquito pool of the season in the 89123 ZIP code. The Health District reminds residents to take precautions to "Fight the Bite" and help reduce the impact of mosquitoes in the community.

West Nile virus activity in Clark County reached unprecedented levels in Clark County in 2019, with 43 reported human cases. Activity was minimal in 2021, 2022 and 2023. In 2024, 26 human cases were reported. In addition to identifying mosquitoes that commonly carry West Nile virus, the Health District is monitoring the presence of *Aedes aegypti* mosquitoes, which can transmit Zika, dengue and chikungunya. Unlike most mosquitoes, *Aedes aegypti* are aggressive daytime biters that prefer humans to birds. They are persistent ankle-biters, and a single female can bite multiple times. These mosquitoes breed in small containers that collect rain or irrigation water—such as children's toys, wheelbarrows, plant saucers and even bottle caps.

The Health District's Fight the Bite campaign encourages people to:

- Eliminate standing water around their homes.
- Use an FDA-registered insect repellent and wear protective clothes.
- Report mosquito activity to the Health District's surveillance program at (702) 759-1633.
- Report green pools to local code enforcement agencies.

Additional resources and contact information are available on the Health District [website](#). For more information about mosquito surveillance, visit www.snhd.info/mosquito.

Legionnaires' Disease Investigations

On July 3, the Health District announced an investigation of three travel-associated cases of Legionnaires' disease in individuals who stayed at Harrah's Laughlin in May. All three individuals were hospitalized. Following notification of cases, the Health District conducted environmental water sampling at the facilities. Multiple samples tested positive for *Legionella*, the bacteria that can cause Legionnaires' disease. In response, Harrah's Laughlin completed disinfection of its water systems and follow up samples were non-detect for *Legionella*. Harrah's Laughlin will continue follow-up testing to help ensure the safety of its water systems. The facility cooperated with the Health District's investigation, initiated guest notifications regarding the potential exposure, and implemented precautionary measures to mitigate any further risk of illness.

Legionnaires' disease symptoms typically begin within two to 10 days after exposure to the bacteria. However, people should watch for symptoms such as cough, shortness of breath, fever, muscle aches and headaches for up to two weeks after exposure.

During investigations, the Health District provides the following recommendations for health care providers:

- Consider *Legionella* infection when evaluating patients for community-acquired pneumonia who:
 - Experience cough, fever, shortness of breath, myalgia or headache.
 - Failed outpatient antibiotics for community-acquired pneumonia.
 - Report overnight travel with water exposure (hot tubs, showering, decorative fountains.)
 - Report a stay or water exposure at Harrah's Laughlin from May 1 to present.
- While testing for more common causes of respiratory illness, consider testing for *Legionella* when [appropriate](#).
- Access the Health District's Public Health Advisory Update for providers on its [website](#) for additional testing, treatment and reporting recommendations.
 - People 50 years or older

People who are at increased risk of getting sick include:

- People 50 years or older
- Current or former smokers
- People with chronic lung disease
- People with weakened immune systems
- People who take drugs that can weaken their immune systems (after a transplant operation or chemotherapy)
- People with underlying illnesses such as diabetes, kidney failure, or liver failure

More information on Legionnaire's disease is available on the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention website at www.cdc.gov/legionella/index.html.

Salmonella Outbreak

On June 11, the Health District announced it had identified four cases of *Salmonella* infection in Clark County associated with a multistate outbreak linked to brown cage free and brown certified organic eggs. The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) led a coordinated investigation into the outbreak, which involved cases reported in several states.

The Health District worked closely with the CDC and state partners to collect additional information and monitor the situation throughout the investigation. The investigation is now closed, and the CDC reported 134 cases, 38 hospitalizations and one death nationwide that were linked to the outbreak. *Salmonella* can cause serious illness. Symptoms typically begin six hours to six days after exposure and include diarrhea, fever and

stomach cramps. Most people recover without medical treatment, but some individuals, especially young children, older adults and people with weakened immune systems, are at greater risk of developing severe illness or complications that may require hospitalization.

More information about the outbreak, including safety tips and product recall details, is available on the CDC's website at www.cdc.gov/salmonella/outbreaks/eggs-06-25/index.html or on the U.S. Food & Drug Administration website at www.fda.gov/food/outbreaks-foodborne-illness/outbreak-investigation-salmonella-eggs-june-2025.

National HIV Testing Day

In recognition of National HIV Testing Day on Friday, June 27, the Health District encouraged everyone to "Level up your self-love: check your health status." This theme highlighted the importance of knowing one's HIV status and connecting with care and treatment if needed. An estimated 1.2 million people in the United States are living with HIV, and about 13 percent are unaware of their status. In 2021, approximately 32,100 new HIV infections occurred nationwide. In Clark County, 488 new HIV diagnoses were reported in 2022, bringing the total number of people living with HIV in the region to 11,518. HIV continues to disproportionately affect racial and ethnic minority groups, as well as gay, bisexual and other men who have sex with men.

The Health District recommends everyone between the ages of 13 and 64 get tested for HIV at least once. Individuals with ongoing risk of HIV infection, Annual testing is recommended for individuals with ongoing risk of HIV infection, and individuals at higher risk should consider getting tested as frequently as every three months. Early diagnosis is critical for people with HIV so that they can benefit from antiretroviral therapy (ART). ART decreases HIV-related illnesses, reduces HIV levels in the bloodstream and lowers the risk of transmitting HIV to intimate partners. With ART, people living with HIV can live long, healthy lives.

On National HIV Testing Day, The Center, which serves the LGBTQ community, partnered with the Library District to offer free HIV testing at the Sahara West Library, Clark County Library and East Las Vegas Library. Free HIV testing is also available every Monday through Saturday at The Center's Arleen Cooper Community Health Center, located at 401 S. Maryland Parkway, Las Vegas, NV 89101. Hours are Monday-Thursday, 9 a.m.–5:30 p.m., and Friday-Saturday, 9 a.m.–2 p.m. Appointments are preferred, but walk-ins are accepted.

SHOPP HIV/STI Testing Locations (Symptom-Free Only)

The Health District's Sexual Health Outreach and Prevention Program (SHOPP) offers no-cost HIV/STI screenings as part of Sexually Transmitted Infection Express Testing on a year-round basis. No appointments are needed, but clients must be without symptoms. Additional testing for syphilis, gonorrhea and chlamydia is also available.

- **Main Public Health Center**
280 S. Decatur, Las Vegas, NV 89107
Monday–Thursday, 7:30 a.m.– 4:30 p.m.
- **Fremont Public Health Center**
2830 E. Fremont St., Las Vegas, NV 89104
Friday, 7:30 a.m.–4:30 p.m.

Same-Day HIV Testing and Treatment Services

Same-day HIV testing and treatment services are also available in the Southern Nevada Community Health Center at both the Decatur and Fremont locations. Services include testing, medical care, behavioral

health, nutrition counseling, case management, pharmacy access and HIV education. PEP and PrEP navigation and treatment are available for those who test negative for HIV. Services are provided to both insured and uninsured patients. A sliding fee scale is available for self-pay patients who qualify.

These services are available at the following locations:

- 280 S. Decatur Blvd., Las Vegas, NV 89107: Open Monday–Thursday, 7 a.m.–6 p.m.
- 2830 E. Fremont St., Las Vegas, NV 89104: Open Tuesday–Friday, 7:30 a.m.–6 p.m.

At-Home HIV Testing with Collect2Protect

The Health District’s Collect2Protect program provides free at-home HIV testing kits by mail, a convenient and private testing option. Low-cost gonorrhea and chlamydia tests are also available by mail. For more information or to request a kit, visit the [Collect2Protect](#) webpage.