



CARSON CITY, NEVADA
CONSOLIDATED MUNICIPALITY AND STATE CAPITAL

DATE: March 6, 2020

TO: State Board of Health Chair and Board Members

FROM: Nicki Aaker, MSN, MPH, RN
Director, Carson City Health and Human Services

SUBJECT: Carson City Health and Human Services Report

The health department is going through the process of doing a Business Impact Analysis. Through this process we are identifying essential and deferrable functions in the event of an emergency. The data gathered and analyzed through this process will allow us to update our Continuity of Operations Plan (COOP). This will also allow us to set forth more robust plans for how we would respond during public health emergencies.

Carson City's Department Operation Center is activated for the Coronavirus situation.

Chronic Disease Prevention and Health Promotion

Adolescent Health –

- As of January, the Abstinence program (SRAE) has served 367 youth. This is already exceeding the Nevada state SRAE Goal of 130 youth participants for the complete 12-month cycle.
- The SRAE program has retention at Bishop Minogue High School, Hugh Gallagher Elementary School, and Carson High School.
- Two hundred ninety-four (294) freshman students at Carson High completed the program in December 2019
- An estimated 250 Carson High School freshman youth will complete SRAE in February 2020.
- The Comprehensive program (PREP) has future scheduling and retention with China Springs/Aurora Pines Youth Camp, Western Nevada Regional Youth Center, Carson City Juvenile Services, and Virginia City Middle School. Forty-four (44) youth have participated in this program to date.
- The AHEP program completed another Art Contest that was facilitated and judged by the students in the Leadership program at Eagle Valley Middle School. The 3 Art Winners are displayed in our CCHHS clinic lobby.

Carson City Health & Human Services

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Tobacco Control and Prevention –

- Received SB263 grant to address youth tobacco and e-cigarette use.
- Tyler Winn has been hired as a contract employee to work mainly under the Funds for Healthy Nevada and SB263.
- Presentations have been conducted at the Health Teachers Conference at Carson High School resulting in more presentations at Dayton High School, Douglas High School, Virginia City Middle School Health Class, Virginia City School’s teacher staff meeting, Sage Ridge Private School 7th and 8th graders, Sage Ridge teachers, and Carson High School’s Parent Education Night.
- A presentation was given to the Joint Meeting of the Carson City Board of Supervisors and the School Board of Trustees
- Staff participated in WNC tabling events (Kick Butt Day, Heart Health Event, and the Great American Smokeout). These events assist in keeping the campus tobacco-free.

Clinical Services

Within the time period of November 1, 2019 to February 14, 2020, the following individuals have been served within the clinic –

- 1,812 unduplicated patients; this is a 15% increase for the same time period in 2018/2019;
- 2,789 total number of visits; this is a 21% increase for the same time period in 2018/2019;
- 36% of the unduplicated clients were seen for immunizations compared to 35% in 2018/2019;
- 1148 flu vaccines were given from September 2019 to Feb 14, 2020; and

Community Health Improvement Plan (CHIP)

Subcommittees are working to accomplish the objectives and activities decided upon in the CHIP. Subcommittees and some of the activities are highlighted below.

- Access to Healthcare – Looking for a new facilitator
- Behavioral Health -
- Case Management & Discharge Planning
 - FASTT is now entering data into CMIS; this is beneficial for performance management
 - Community Coalition meetings take place monthly to discuss case management for individuals that are high utilizers of the emergency room, ambulance services, and the area social services agencies.
- Criminal Justice Collaboration

- Incorporated a CCHHS Community Health Worker into the FASTT program which is funded through Partnership Carson City's FASTT grant received from the State of Nevada
- Public Awareness
 - The pocket resource guide that was developed will be reviewed and updated as needed
 - The subcommittee is discussing a way to get our partner organizations to have a link on their website directing to one resource page
 - Resources from this guide are posted on Partnership Carson City's website
- Transitional Housing
 - Carson City is working with the Specialty Courts to provide transition housing while individuals are completing required programs
 - New project in initial stages per Jim Peckham, FISH (Whistle Stop Inn)
- Triage
 - Algorithm for treatment options completed for adults; gap is algorithm for children
 - Columbia Suicide Screening has been adopted and training was conducted for the Behavioral Health Task Force
 - Columbia Suicide Screening adopted at the Northern Nevada Regional Behavioral Health Policy Board
- Workforce Housing
 - Carson City's Planning Commission continues to work on an ordinance change to allow accessory units to be rented
 - Butti Way project - Request for Proposal awarded to XXXX; idea is for a project that will bring some affordable housing to Carson City
- Youth
 - Presented a plan to address barriers for chronic absenteeism at the elementary, middle and high schools
 - Plan is written into school district's strategic plan which was approved at a recent school board meeting
 - Trying to get to unify policies within all the schools
 - A MOU was executed between the Carson City School District and Vitality to see students at school that have a transportation barrier
- Food Security & Food Access
 - A staff person from WIC and Human Services have created a list of grocery stores, convenience stores, etc. that have fresh fruits and vegetables for purchase
 - The list has been shared with Carson City's GIS Coordinator so a map can be developed showing the areas individuals have access to fresh fruits and vegetables (the definition of urban access has been adopted)
 - Once the map is complete, the food deserts will be identified
 - Next steps will be decided upon
- Workforce Development – need to re-define

Environmental Health

- The Quality Improvement project has been approved by CCHHS Performance Management Team that relates to the changes made on the Restaurant Inspection Sheet and the new Inspection Grading System.
- I am happy to announce that Kandis Tuttle has been hired as Carson City's Environmental Health Specialist replacing Bob Elliott who retired in 2019.

Epidemiology

- Seasonal flu activity counties in the quad county area. The quad county area, like most of the rest of Nevada and the County, saw predominantly flu B(Victoria) in the first part of the season and is now seeing mostly A(H1N1)
- Staff are working closely with DPBH staff on the ever evolving COVID-19 response.
- Staff as part of the Epidemiology Laboratory Capacity (ELC) governance team will be attending the ELC grant guidance meeting in April 2020.

Quad-County Public Health Preparedness (Carson City; Douglas, Lyon and Storey Counties)

- In November, Quad-County PHP participated in the three-day full-scale exercise - Silver Crucible. This was a Complex Coordinated Terrorist attack exercise in which the scenario for our region involved burn surge patients to flood a local hospital; botulism patients to arrive at two hospitals and need to be diagnosed as a partnership between the local health authority, hospital infection prevention, and State Lab.
- Quad-County PHP continues to work with Emergency Management and Law Enforcement partners from the region on the development of a regional Family Assistance Center plan.
- In November, Quad-County PHP met with the new tribal liaison at Division of Emergency Management to assist with tribal participation in regional projects and exercises.
- In February, Quad-County PHP participated with State PHP in a functional exercise of the Receive, Stage, and Store (RSS) process in preparation for the multi-month full scale exercise occurring October 2020-February 2021. Carson City took this opportunity and exercised a Department Operations Plan in order to get multiple employees exposed to the process.

Human Services

- Job Fair scheduled for February 21, 2020 in collaboration with Western Nevada College.

- We have our second certified Community Health Worker (CHW). The primary focus of this CHW will be receiving referrals from MOST and discharge planning with Carson Tahoe Regional Healthcare and Behavior Health Services.

Respectively submitted,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "N. Aaker".

Nicki Aaker, MSN, MPH, RN

Director, Carson City Health and Human Services

February 19, 2020

To: State Board of Health Members
From: Kevin Dick
Washoe County District Health Officer
Subject: March 2020 Washoe County District Health Officer Report

2019 Novel Coronavirus (COVID-19)

The Epidemiology Program is staying up-to-date with the evolving 2019 Novel Coronavirus (2019-nCoV) situation, which has been renamed COVID-19 by the World Health Organization. To date (February 19) there have been no cases of COVID-19 in Washoe County.

On January 17, 2020 I activated our Department Emergency Operations Plan (DEOP) at level one (partial staffing) to provide a command structure and organization. This was a precautionary measure to plan for the potential of cases occurring in Washoe County, testing and management of people that may present symptoms and travel history of concern for the disease, and communications with our community. We are currently utilizing the CDC guidance for risk assessment and management of individuals with a travel history of being in China during the past fourteen days, or who may have been in contact with someone that has been diagnosed with the disease.

As part of our preparations, Deputy District Attorney Reid has met with Judge Robb, and a representative from the Public Defender's Office staff to discuss procedures for court ordered isolation and quarantine in the event this may become necessary.

The Communicable Disease Program, Public Health Preparedness staff, and Washoe County Health District leadership have been holding weekly meetings to plan and provide updates for the rapidly evolving 2019 novel coronavirus situation. To date, there have been three meetings which occurred on January 27, February 4, and February 13. A summary of actions is provided below:

- Ongoing communication and updates have been provided to multiple partners including Washoe County School District, local infection control providers, hospitalists, emergency first responders, the Washoe County Inter-Hospital Coordinating Council, the Nevada State Public Health Laboratory, the Nevada Division of Public and Behavioral Health, and the Centers for Disease Control and Preparedness.
- An assessment of Washoe County hospital and emergency first responder's current personal protective equipment and other supplies was conducted, as well as an assessment of local healthcare facility travel screens and protocols when a patient presents with influenza-like illness.
- A frequently asked questions (FAQ) infographic was created by the Health District's Communications Manager in conjunction with the County's Communications Team and posted to the Health District's main page.

- The Epidemiology Program Manager has created tracking mechanisms, case interview forms and risk assessment forms for taking purposes.
- The Public Health Preparedness team and office support specialists have been trained to handle calls related to coronavirus, including how to conduct risk assessments. All of these interviews are signed off by one of the epidemiologists. This has increased the CD Program's ability to handle outbreaks, along with the continued influx of other reportable conditions, and is much appreciated.
- Coordination with the District Attorney's Office and medical providers on implementation of isolation and quarantine processes, should the need arise.

Influenza – Thus far, there have been 155 influenza-associated hospitalizations for the 2019-2020 flu season in Washoe County. Among these cases, 38 hospitalized patients received the seasonal flu vaccine before onset of symptoms. There have been 5 confirmed flu-related deaths reported thus far (week 5) and the CD team is currently investigating 3 additional influenza-associated deaths, one of which is a pediatrics case, to determine if they are confirmed influenza-related death cases. During week 5, the percentage of persons seen locally with influenza-like illness (ILI) increased to 3.3%, which is above the regional baseline of 2.4%. In Washoe County the pneumonia and influenza (P&I) mortality for week 5 was 9.7%, above the national week 3 epidemic threshold of 6.7%.

Pertussis- The two school-wide pertussis outbreaks in local high schools were closed in early December and any remaining unvaccinated students were allowed to return to school. A joint presentation on Outbreak Response was provided by School and Health District staff to inform the Washoe County School District Board of Trustees of legal responsibilities/authorities, and procedures for outbreak response which are utilized.

Public Health Preparedness (PHP) Exercises and Trainings - On January 16 and 17 the PHEP & Healthcare Public Health Emergency Response Coordinator (PHERC) participated in an information sharing exercise with the Nevada Division of Public and Behavioral Health. During this exercise CMS data was requested from the State. This data would be used to identify and respond to individuals in the simulated disaster exercise area who may need additional help based on their medical needs. In a real event, this information would be used to support shelters and EMS response.

On January 15 and 16, PHP and the State of Nevada DEM hosted FEMA G288 Local Volunteer and Donation Management and G489 Management of Spontaneous Volunteers Training at the REOC. This two-day training included participation from Washoe County, Quad Counties, the State, VOAD, and other community partners with approximately 30 in attendance each day.

PHP participated in the Reno Catholic Charities of Nevada Project Homeless and Family Connect annual event that brings dozens of local service providers together to connect individuals and families who may be facing or who are experiencing homelessness with medical care, social services, housing aid, and other services. PHP hosted a flu vaccine Point of Dispensing (POD) in which approximately 125 vaccines were dispensed and almost 40 new staff (volunteers) were trained to work in a POD under an ICS command structure.

On February 4th, PHP participated in a Nevada Division of Public and Behavioral Health Receive, Stage, Store (RSS) functional exercise. The RSS is the identified delivery location to receive assets from the Strategic National Stockpile (SNS) in the event of a public health emergency. PHP partnered with Amateur Radio Emergency Services (ARES) to set up redundant communications with the Regional Emergency Operations Center (REOC) in order to test resource ordering over amateur radio.

PHP will be conducting Stop the Bleed Training for Washoe County employees and community partners on March 3, 5, and 11, 2020. Washoe County employees may register for the training through Bridge.

Inter-Hospital Coordinating Council- An Ebola/Infection Disease exercise was conducted on February 4 with REMSA and Renown Health, with the exercise planning being led by WCHD. This exercise included moving a patient from the hospital, into the ISOPD, and then into the ambulance for transport to the airport, where the patient would be transferred to a treatment hospital in California. All attending personnel used protocols for donning and doffing of personal protective equipment (PPE) prior to patient contact. This exercise helps ensure that our community is ready for any infectious disease that may come our way.

IHCC is currently working on preparations for two upcoming exercises. The No-Notice Surge exercise will test the community's ability to evacuate 20% of acute care beds within 90 minutes. The CMS Exercise will assess the impact a community-wide event would have on a healthcare's operations as well as help identify resources in the community that would be able to assist with transporting patients following a disaster that impacted the community.

In conjunction with the EMS Program, the HPP Program has begun replacing the older radios in healthcare facilities with radios that will be compatible with the new P25 system, which will be live within the next couple of years. This batch of radios was purchased with HPP funds, with the intention of keeping the communication transition seamless for healthcare facilities.

Sexual Health (Outreach and Disease Investigation) – The program has been notified of continued funding for Ryan White Part B (RWPB) services. Services offered in the current funding period will provide a foundation for continuation and expansion. Recent sites confirmed for offsite testing partnerships supported by these funds include TMCC, Tu Casa Latina, and Catholic Charities.

Immunizations – A total of 17 School Located Vaccination Clinics (SLVCs) were completed this flu season and 1,210 doses of flu vaccine were administered. Staff also administered 31 doses of flu vaccine at the Mariposa Clinic in collaboration with Immunize Nevada and CVS Pharmacy on January 15th. In addition, staff participated in the Project Homeless Connect Point of Dispensing (POD) exercise in partnership with EPHP and administered 125 doses of flu vaccine.

Staff will be participating in the Truckee Meadows Healthy Communities Family Health Festival in collaboration with Immunize Nevada offering recommended immunizations for children 2 months through 18 years on March 4, 2020 at the Boys and Girls Club on Bresson Drive.

Congratulations to the Reno Center for Child and Adolescent Health who was recognized by the American Academy of Pediatrics for going above and beyond to foster HPV vaccination among

adolescents in our community. There were only 17 pediatric organizations recognized in the United States.

Tuberculosis Prevention and Control Program - In 2019, eight active TB cases were successfully treated, there was one death and one suspicious extra-pulmonary case who was not able to tolerate treatment; this individual is now being monitored by a primary provider. Contacts to 2019 confirmed cases continue to be documented as cases are closed.

Reproductive and Sexual Health Services – State funding for reproductive health services will allow additional vaccination services to be provided in the reproductive health clinic and an additional Public Health Nurse Supervisor position has been filled. The clinic will provide Tdap, Twinrix, HPV and Influenza vaccines to clients over the age of 18. Staff has attended trainings with WebIZ and are in the process of training with the immunization staff to become proficient in vaccine administration. Clinic rooms and offices have been rearranged to accommodate the increase in staff and clients. Staff are currently working on revamping clinic flow to accommodate longer client appointments with the implementation of vaccinations.

WIC Program Update

National Nutrition Month is an annual nutrition education and information campaign created by the Academy of Nutrition and Dietetics. The campaign, celebrated each year during the month of March, focuses on the importance of making informed food choices and developing sound eating and physical activity habits. The theme of this year's campaign is Eat Right, Bite by Bite, and offers resources and information to help everyone make small changes that will lead to a larger healthful effect.

The campaign reminds us all to:

- **Make small changes.** Keep things simple and don't change everything at once. Focus on Nutrition "bite by bite" is about making small changes to your eating style to help you live a healthful life. Making changes isn't always easy, which is why it's helpful to keep things simple.
- **Eat a variety of nutritious foods every day.** It's important to eat a variety of nutritious foods every day in order to get the nutrients that are needed. Including healthful foods from all food groups and hydrate healthfully. Learn how to read Nutrition Facts labels, practice portion control and take the time to enjoy your food.
- **Plan your meals each week.** Plan your meals each week so that you can be sure to include a variety of nutritious foods. Look in the refrigerator, freezer and pantry for foods that need to be used up. Choose healthful recipes to make during the week.



- **Learn skills to create tasty meals.** Preparing food at home can be healthy and rewarding. Keep healthful ingredients on hand, practice proper home food safety, and share meals together when possible.
- **Eat right, Bite by Bite.** Good nutrition doesn't have to be restrictive or over whelming. Small goals and changes can have a cumulative effect, and every little bit (or bite) of nutrition is a step in the right direction.
- **Consult a Registered Dietitian Nutritionist.** Receive personalized nutrition advice to meet your goals and unique needs and thrive through the transformative power of food and nutrition.

The WCHD's WIC Program (Special Supplemental Nutrition Program for Women, Infants and Children) guides, encourages and celebrates the positive healthy steps expecting mothers and families of young children make daily to lead healthier lifestyles. This year's theme of Eat Right, Bite by Bite is embodied by WIC through the routine practice of WIC staff helping participants set small goals for themselves at their appointments that are later followed up on and built on at future appointments. This approach, by meeting participants where they are at and helping them set small, attainable goals has paid off.

Data show that the rate of obesity among 2 to 4-year-olds enrolled in WIC fell from 15.9% to 13.9% from 2010 to 2016 in the United States, with a rate of 11.6% for Nevada, which is 8th best in the nation. WIC has redesigned food packages to better align with the U.S. Dietary Guidelines for Americans and infant feeding practice guidelines of the American Academy of Pediatrics. This change led to increased availability of healthier foods and beverages in authorized WIC stores and improved dietary quality among families who enrolled in WIC.

In addition to the food packages, WIC helps to establish successful long-term breastfeeding and provides participants with a wider variety of food based on cultural preferences. WIC does this through the provision of breastfeeding education and support via the availability of lactation specialists, breast pumps and breast-feeding supplies as well as providing education on the developmental and nutrition needs of infants, toddlers and young children. Participants are also connected to other services through their WIC participation, such as Nevada Early Intervention, immunizations and other health services.

WCHD WIC is excited to promote the national campaign encouraging clients to make small changes throughout the year, celebrate their successes, and move in the right direction to a healthier tomorrow.

Community Health Improvement Plan

The 2019 CHIP Annual Report which covers the progress made in 2019 is scheduled for release by the end of the month. A great amount of progress has been made early in the three-year plan and the impact of the community wide collaboration on the three focus areas has been substantial.

Nutrition/Physical Activity - Within the Nutrition and Physical Activity focus area, progress has continued with implementation of the 5210 Healthy Washoe initiative. For the worksite component of the initiative, three businesses were selected to be pilot sites by the Reno + Sparks Chamber of Commerce. The first 5210 training was held on January 15th to educate sites about the program and implementation steps. All 24 departments within Washoe County are implementing the program and hosted a kickoff for their teams on January 15th. In addition, NN HOPES has

formed a workplace wellness committee to begin implementing the program for their employees. For the healthcare components, NN HOPES continues to implement the 5210 strategies during patient appointments. Renown’s Pediatric Ambulatory Clinics are implementing the program and have built the 5210 Healthy Habits questionnaire into their EMR. For the school components, a 5210 presentation was delivered to the five principals of the pilot schools. Urban Roots continues to provide services which includes 5210 programming in five schools.

Food/Food Safety

- The Food Program received an audit from the Southern Nevada Health District to verify our conformance with the Food and Drug Administration (FDA) Retail Food Program Standards. Standard 3 – Inspection Program Based on Hazard Analysis Critical Control Points (HACCP) Principles and Standard 5 -Foodborne Illness and Food Defense Preparedness and Response were audited and successfully completed. The team reported this achievement to our regional FDA Retail Food Specialist. The information will also be entered into the national FDA Program Standards database to show our progress within the Standards. The Food Safety Program now fully meets four of the nine Program Standards. The following chart illustrates conformance with the FDA Program Standards:

Met	Standard	Progress	Standard Elements (Incomplete elements identified in red and completed elements identified in strikethrough text)
✓	1 REGULATORY FOUNDATION	Fully Met	1a- 1b- 1c- 2a- 2b- 3a- 4a-
✗	2 TRAINED REGULATORY STAFF	88.9% met	1a- 1b- 2a- 2b- 3a- 3b- 4a- 4b- 5a
✓	3 INSPECTION PROGRAM BASED ON HACCP PRINCIPLES	Fully Met	1a- 1b- 1c- 2a- 3a- 4a- 4b- 4c- 5a- 6a-
✗	4 UNIFORM INSPECTION PROGRAM	93.8% met	1a- 1b- 1c- 2- 2i- 2ii- 2iii- 2iv- 2v- 2vi- 2vii- 2viii- 2ix- 2x- 3a- 3b
✓	5 FOODBORNE ILLNESS AND FOOD DEFENSE PREPAREDNESS AND RESPONSE	Fully Met	1a- 1b- 1c- 1d- 1e- 1f- 1g- 1h- 1i- 2a- 2b- 3a- 3b- 4a- 5a- 5b- 5c- 6a- 7a- 7b1- 7b2- 7b3- 7b4- 7b5- 7b6- 7b7- 7b8- 7b9- 7c-
✗	6 COMPLIANCE AND ENFORCEMENT	50.0% met	1a- 1b- 2a 2b
✓	7 INDUSTRY AND COMMUNITY RELATIONS	Fully Met	1a- 1b-
✗	8 PROGRAM SUPPORT AND RESOURCES	61.5% met	1a 2a- 2b- 3a- 3b- 4a- 4b- 4c- 4d 4e 4f 4g- 4h-
✗	9 PROGRAM ASSESSMENT	85.7% met	1a- 1b- 1c- 2a- 2b- 3a 3b-

- The Food Safety Program organized a Special Processes training that covered fermentation and charcuterie at retail food establishments. The training was presented by Dr. Brian Nummer from Utah State and provided staff with 14 CEUs in Food Safety which is a requirement for compliance with Standard 2 – Trained Regulatory Staff. The workshop was also attended by several food establishment operators interested in conducting specialized food processes. Participation in food safety forums with the food service industry meets the criteria of Standard 7 - Industry and Community Relations.
- The Food Safety Program hosted a site visit for the National Association of County and City Health Officials (NACCHO) mentorship program with our mentee jurisdiction from Monongalia County, WV. The Food Safety Program presented on our work and reviewed all 9 FDA Standards with our mentee over the two-day visit. Currently, Monongalia County is in the process of completing their first self-assessment of the FDA Voluntary National Retail Food Regulatory Program Standards. The WCHD is providing guidance

and assistance as Monongalia County navigates their way through a self-assessment for the first time.

- **Epidemiology** – Epidemiology staff completed all updates to the Standard Operating Procedures (SOPs) FS-1 and FS-19 which cover Foodborne Disease Investigations and Recalls. Southern Nevada Health District staff reviewed these SOPs as part of their audit of Standard 5 - Foodborne Illness and Food Defense Preparedness and Response. EHS passed the audit and now meets Standard 5. Numerous School and Child Care outbreaks were declared by Communicable Disease (CD) staff in January. Staff monitored 13 outbreaks during the month. Staff was also invited to co-present along with CD staff at an upcoming Washoe County School District (WCSD) Nurses monthly meeting.

Epidemiology	JAN 2019	2020 YTD
Foodborne Disease Complaints	20	20
Foodborne Disease Interviews	14	14
Foodborne Disease Investigations	0	0
CD Referrals Reviewed	12	12
Product Recalls Reviewed	3	3
Child Care/School Outbreaks Monitored	13	13

- **Special Events** – January remained quiet for events with just three inspections. Staff fielded numerous calls and questions regarding renewal of annual Sampling and Producer permits and Temporary Food events planned in 2020. Program staff attended the City of Reno Special Events meeting which will now be held bi-monthly instead of monthly in order to help shorten the typical length of the meetings



DATE: March 6, 2020

TO: State Board of Health Members

FROM: Fermin Leguen, MD, MPH, Acting Chief Health Officer

SUBJECT: Chief Health Officer Report

Coronavirus Disease 2019 (COVID-19)

The Southern Nevada Health District is working with the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) to closely monitor an outbreak of novel coronavirus first identified in Wuhan, China. According to the CDC, the potential global public health threat posed by this virus is high, but right now, the immediate risk to most Americans is low. Most cases are still limited to mainland China, and the virus is not currently spreading in the United States. The greatest risk is for people who have recently traveled to China or their close contacts.

Currently, no cases of coronavirus disease 2019 have been confirmed in Clark County. The Southern Nevada Public Health Laboratory has the capacity to test for coronavirus disease 2019. This will allow the Health District to receive test results in a timely manner. Only patients who meet the CDC criteria for a person under investigation (PUI) and have been assessed by a medical provider and the Health District will be tested. Moving forward and in keeping with its standard disease reporting practices, if additional Clark County residents do meet the CDC criteria of a PUI and require testing, the Health District will only announce laboratory confirmed cases of the virus.

In keeping with updated CDC guidance, the Health District is monitoring Clark County residents who have returned from mainland China (outside of Hubei province). These are individuals who do not have symptoms after receiving a medical screening and are allowed to return home and be monitored under a 14-day self-quarantine. As of February 10, approximately 30,000 people have been screened at U.S. airports.

The Health District continues to provide important prevention messages to the public. Everyday precautions everyone can take to help prevent the spread of respiratory illnesses, including the novel coronavirus and seasonal flu include:

- Avoid close contact with people who are sick.
- Avoid touching your eyes, nose, and mouth with unwashed hands.
- Stay home when you are sick.
- Cover your cough or sneeze with a tissue, then throw the tissue in the trash.
- Clean and disinfect frequently touched objects and surfaces using a regular household cleaning spray or wipe.

- Clean your hands often by washing them with soap and water for at least 20 seconds or using an alcohol-based hand sanitizer with at least 60% alcohol. Always wash hands with soap and water if hands are visibly dirty.
 - Hands should be cleaned after going to the bathroom; before eating; and after blowing your nose, coughing, or sneezing.

The use of facemasks is not recommended for the public at this time. Masks should be reserved for people who are sick, so they can protect others from getting infected. Additional prevention information is available at www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/about/prevention-treatment.html. Updated information about the 2019 novel coronavirus is available at <https://www.southernnevadahealthdistrict.org/coronavirus>.

2019-2020 Influenza Season Update

Influenza activity in the United States declined in the first two weeks of the year but increased over the last four weeks. During week 6 (Feb. 2, 2020 – Feb. 8, 2020), influenza-like illness (ILI) activity was moderate and widespread in Nevada. In Clark County, 1,106 influenza-associated hospitalizations and 26 influenza-related deaths, including two pediatric deaths, were reported to the Health District since the beginning of the current influenza season. The proportion of emergency department and urgent care clinic visits for ILI was 4.6 percent in week 6 which was lower than week 5 (5.5 percent). Approximately 48.9 percent of area emergency department and urgent care clinic visits for ILI were made by children under 18 years of age. Influenza A has become the dominant type circulating. The Health District continues to encourage influenza vaccination for all people 6 months of age and older without contraindications.

The Southern Nevada Health District's Office of Epidemiology and Disease Surveillance began its 2019-2020 influenza season surveillance activities on Oct. 1, 2019, and will continue through May 16, 2020. Weekly surveillance reports are available on the Health District website at www.southernnevadahealthdistrict.org/news-info/statistics-surveillance-reports/influenza-surveillance/.

Lung Injury Associated with the Use of E-cigarette, or Vaping, Products

The CDC only reports hospitalized e-cigarette, or vaping, product use-associated lung injury (EVALI) cases and EVALI deaths regardless of hospitalization status. The CDC has removed non-hospitalized cases from previously reported case counts. As of Jan. 21, 2020, the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) is reporting that 2,711 cases of EVALI from all 50 states, the District of Columbia, and two U.S. territories. Sixty deaths have been confirmed in 27 states and the District of Columbia.

The Health District has reported six cases of EVALI in Clark County. All the individuals reported purchasing or acquiring their products from different sources, including friends, retail outlets, and through online purchases. An overview of the cases is available at www.southernnevadahealthdistrict.org/Health-Topics/nevada-clean-indoor-air-act/outbreak-vaping-e-cigarette-related-lung-injuries/.

The CDC identified vitamin E acetate as being strongly linked to the EVALI outbreak. It has been found in product samples tested by the FDA and state laboratories and in patient lung fluid samples

tested by the CDC. It is important to note, the evidence is not sufficient to rule out the contribution of other chemicals of concern, including chemicals in both THC or non-THC products.

The Health District, the CDC, and FDA continue to recommend that people not use THC-containing e-cigarette, or vaping, products. Vitamin E acetate should not be added to e-cigarette or vaping products. People should not add substances not intended by the manufacturer to any products, including products purchased through a licensed manufacturer. People should not buy any type of e-cigarette or vaping products, particularly those containing THC, from informal sources such as friends, or family, or in-person or online dealers. Devices and substances should not be modified or used in ways that are not intended by the manufacturer, including products purchased through retail establishments. People who currently use tobacco products who wish to quit smoking should use FDA-approved therapies. These products should never be used by youth, young adults, pregnant women, and people who do not currently use tobacco products. Nevada residents, ages 13 and older who are seeking help quitting tobacco products, including e-cigarettes, can contact the Nevada Tobacco Quitline at 1-800-QUIT-NOW or 1-855-DÉJELO-YA (1-855-335-3569) from a Nevada area code.

Up to date information on the outbreak is available on the CDC [website](#).

Federally Qualified Health Center

The Health District's Federally Qualified Health Center (FQHC) is currently open and offering services to the public. The operational site visit for the Southern Nevada Community Health Center (SNCHC), is scheduled for February 25, 26, and 27. Staff members received the technical assistance report from the Health Services Resources Administration review team and have been addressing areas of concern identified in the report.

Tobacco Control Program

During the 2019 legislative session, the Nevada Clean Indoor Air Act was modified to include electronic vaping products. Effective Jan. 1, 2020, the use of any electronic vaping product is now prohibited from use in most public places and indoor places of employment. The Health District collaborated with the Nevada Tobacco Prevention Coalition to develop a statewide awareness campaign called "Breathe in the New Year." The campaign educated the public and business owners about the updates to the law and included a radio, print, digital, and social media campaign, dedicated webpages, and earned media.

The Office of Chronic Disease Prevention and Health Promotion's Tobacco Control Program continues to work with the Clark County School District to educate teens on the dangers of using electronic vaping products. In December, two new high schools were added to the BreakDown teen prevention outreach list – Palo Verde High School and Desert Pines High School. BreakDown educational outreach events include training opportunities for key identified students and fun interactive activities for the entire student body. BreakDown activities have reached more than 4,000 students.

Hepatitis A Outbreak

In June 2019, the Health District declared an outbreak of acute hepatitis A in Clark County. As of Dec. 31, 2019, there were 100 cases reported as part of the outbreak. Although the Health District is not ready to declare the outbreak is over, the number of cases continues to decline. Hepatitis A immunizations and educational outreach activities continue.

The Health District continues to remind the public and its health care partners that hepatitis A vaccination is the best prevention against the virus. Information about the hepatitis A outbreak and additional resources are available on the Health District's website at www.SNHD.info/hep-a-control.

Steve Sisolak
Governor

Richard Whitley, MS
Director



DEPARTMENT OF
HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES
Division of Public and Behavioral Health
Helping people. It's who we are and what we do.



Lisa Sherych
Administrator

Ihsan Azzam, Ph.D., M.D.
Chief Medical Officer

Date: February 22, 2020

To: Nevada State Board of Health

Through: Richard Whitley, Director DHHS
Lisa Sherych, Administrator, DPBH

From: Ihsan Azzam, PhD, MD, MPH, Chief Medical Officer

Re: Report to the Board of Health for March 06, 2020 Meeting

Coronavirus Disease (COVID-19) Situation Summary

The emergence of a novel SARS-like coronavirus (SARS-CoV-2) in Hubei Province, China, and its rapid spread through many countries, is an international emergency. The massive social distancing attempts at rapid case-isolation and contact-quarantine for close contacts have had some beneficial effects on limiting the spread of this serious respiratory infection. However, much about factors controlling its transmission and severity has yet to be discovered.

The Division of Public and Behavioral Health (DPBH) is carefully monitoring this newly emerging public health threat, and is closely collaborating with local, state, and federal partners to control and prevent the spread of this severe acute respiratory disease outbreak in Nevada and the United States (U.S.). Excellent practical toolkits were developed to educate the public and those who want to find out more about this novel coronavirus SARS-CoV-2 or review up-to-date information on the current situation. Additionally, other useful material for healthcare workers; schools and universities; employers and businesses, travelers and the general public are available on our website <http://dpbh.nv.gov/coronavirus/>.

The DPBH already activated the Operations Center (DOC) utilizing a modified Incident Command System (ICS) structure to coordinate our public health response. The plan of the ongoing public health response is to early-detect and rapidly contain introductions of this virus in Nevada with the goal of delaying and ultimately preventing sustained spread of coronavirus.

So far, the Basic Reproduction Number **RO** of this novel coronavirus is about 2.67 and the case-fatality rate is between 2 to 3.11%. Most deaths associated with this outbreak occurred in the mainland of China. This virus is gradually spreading worldwide, and a growing number of countries are reporting cases among travelers from China, and some person-to-person transmission has been reported outside China, including in the U.S. Additionally, asymptomatic transmission has been reported.

On January 30, 2020 the U.S. State Department issued a level 4 travel advisory, their highest threat level, requesting Americans not to travel to China because of the public health threat posed by this novel coronavirus. And, on January 31, 2020, the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services declared a public health emergency

for the U.S. to aid the nation's health care and public health systems in responding to this SARS-CoV-2. Special precautions, including quarantine for up to 14 days, are currently required of persons entering the U.S. after being in China.

Coronaviruses are large family of viruses that are common in many different species of animals, including camels, cattle, cats, and bats. Rarely, animal coronaviruses can infect people and then spread among people such as with the SARS-CoV Epidemic in 2002, MERS-CoV Epidemic in 2014, and now with this new virus (named SARS-CoV-2). Outbreaks caused by newly emerging viruses that can infect people are always concerning. While this situation poses a serious public health threat, the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) and the DPBH believe the immediate risk to the public in Nevada, and nationwide, continues to be low.

To date, 32 international locations (in addition to the U.S.) have reported confirmed cases of the COVID-19. As of February 22, 2020, 35 infections "cases" with the SARS-CoV-2 among travelers from China and repatriated Americans have been reported in six states – Arizona, California, Illinois, Massachusetts, Washington and Wisconsin. 18 of those cases occurred at the Diamond Princess Ship. Person-to-person transmission of this virus was confirmed in three of these cases, as the novel virus was transmitted after close, prolonged contact with confirmed case returned traveler from Wuhan, the epicenter in China where this pandemic initially started.

The situation is rapidly changing, and we are monitoring it closely. The coming days are likely to bring more confirmed cases of COVID-19 in the U.S. and globally. While it is unclear how this situation will evolve, Nevada and the rest of the nation are actively preparing to face this "pandemic." Strong public health measures such as timely detection of cases, prompt isolation of patients and proper implementation of quarantine for contacts, with close observation and monitoring of those who could have been exposed to SARS-CoV-2 patients, may blunt the impact and slow the spread of the virus until such time when effective treatment and vaccination can be developed.

It seems that the 2019-nCoV is spreading via droplets and direct contact with contaminated surfaces in a manner that is similar to seasonal influenza. Main symptoms of 2019-nCoV infection (fever, cough and shortness of breath) are also similar to severe influenza infections. Currently, there is no approved treatment or a vaccine for this novel virus, and regular use of masks is not recommended by CDC. However, avoiding crowded areas and practicing individual hygiene including proper hand washing and not touching the face, nose, mouth and eyes with unwashed hands can reduce risks for contracting this infection.

At this time there are a lot of unknowns, and the situation is evolving. The risk in this outbreak will mostly depend on how the virus is transmitted; how widely it spreads, and how severe the symptoms are (or will be). Individual risk depends on exposure; those exposed to ill persons are at greater risk of contracting the infection. Additionally, the risk for contracting the virus is higher among health care workers and family members caring for patients with SARS-CoV-2.

Our public health goal continues to be protecting the health of Nevada residents and visitors by preventing community spread of this novel virus. The state website <http://dphh.nv.gov/coronavirus/> has been updated since the beginning of this outbreak and it contains most recent information on the COVID-19.

Influenza Season 2019 - 2020 Update

It seems that this current influenza season is far worse than initially thought. The total number of influenza deaths among children, is double what the number it was this time last year. That is because circulating viruses can be unpredictable and a significant shift in the predominant strain which is usually influenza A, to influenza B which tends to severely affect children in more aggressive manner.

Across the country, 105 children have died from the flu this season, including two in Nevada under the age of four. According to CDC recent estimates, there were so far 29 million influenza infections in the United State; about 280,000 of those already required hospitalization and 14,000 died due to influenza-related complications. It is estimated that about 250,000 Nevadans contracted the flu this season; with about 1,333 requiring hospitalization and 33 influenza-related deaths.

Since early this season, influenza B viruses, specifically B/Victoria viruses, have been reported more frequently than other influenza viruses, followed by A(H1N1). Different viruses have predominated in different times and among different age groups. Influenza B viruses can cause severe illness in people of all ages, including children. Influenza activity remains high in Nevada and nationwide due to influenza B/Victoria viruses, increasing circulation of influenza A(H1N1) viruses, and low levels of influenza B/Yamagata and influenza A(H3N2) viruses. Recent CDC's forecasts suggest that national influenza activity will remain elevated for several more weeks.

So far this season, influenza B virus infections account for about half of hospitalizations reported in Nevada, and, Influenza A(H1N1) viruses are increasing and becoming predominant in Nevada since mid-January 2020. These viruses can also cause severe illness, particularly in adults not originally exposed to currently circulating A(H1N1) viruses and they are responsible for about 50% of influenza-related hospitalization reported in Nevada.

Early treatment with antiviral medications without waiting for laboratory confirmation can improve outcomes in patients with suspected influenza, especially among those hospitalized and high-risk outpatients, including children younger than two years. Taking preventive actions will certainly help stop the spread of germs. Regardless of the infections cause, it is advisable for symptomatic patients to self-isolate at home and seek medical care as needed. Patients should consider appropriate measures to prevent transmitting the flu to their household members.

It is never too late to receive the vaccine, especially that this season's influenza vaccine continues to provide good match for the currently circulating viruses and seems to be more effective so far than previous seasons. CDC preliminary vaccine effectiveness estimates indicate that the 2019-20 flu vaccine is providing substantial protective benefit, particularly among children, who were hard hit by flu this season. Flu vaccines are reducing doctor visits associated with flu illness by 45% overall and 55% in children. We are still in the midst of the flu season, and as long as influenza viruses are circulating, vaccination efforts should continue, even into February or later.