

November 29, 2016

To: State Board of Health Members  
From: Kevin Dick  
Washoe County District Health Officer  
Subject: December 2016 Washoe County District Health Officer Report

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### Influenza

As of the end of CDC Week Number 46 ending, November 19 2016, Washoe County had 309 lab confirmed influenza cases. 272 of these cases were Influenza type A, 12 Influenza type B, and 25 Influenza unknown type. 29 of the lab confirmed cases, or 9.4% were hospitalized, 7 lab confirmed cases, or 2.3%, received treatment in the intensive care unit (ICU), and we had three deaths of lab confirmed cases, 1%. While the number of influenza like illness cases reported by our sentinel providers remains within historical ranges, the number of lab confirmed cases are trending much higher than for this time in the season during previous years.

Influenza immunizations are being provided on-site through our Clinical Services, and by the Health District offsite during the October Family Health Festival at Reno Town Mall, at a Mexican Consulate Binational Health Event in October, and at school based vaccination clinics.

### Zika Virus Disease Evaluation and Testing

As of November 28, 2016 there have been 47 individuals referred by local healthcare providers for evaluation of possible Zika virus infection. Five cases have been reported. One of the five cases was an asymptomatic pregnant woman and one was identified through blood donation. The pregnant woman is being monitored throughout the remainder of her pregnancy for any fetal abnormalities. The testing for the newborn and the mother has been coordinated and arranged among several agencies including the state lab, WCHD, hospital, primary care provider, and obstetrician.

### Food

The Food Safety Program was selected to participate as a mentee in the Voluntary National Retail Food Regulatory Program Standards Mentorship Program administered by the National Association of County and City Health Officials (NACCHO) with support from the Food and Drug Administration (FDA). The Food Safety Program will be matched with Southern Nevada Health District as the mentor who will provide guidance on the development and implementation of a food inspection quality assurance program. The Mentorship Program award will also provide funding for Environmental Health Specialist Trainees to attend the 2017 National Environmental Health Association (NEHA), Registered Environmental Health Specialist (REHS) Credential Review Course, and subsequently sit for the REHS exam.

The new color-coded food establishment inspection process and rating system was implemented on November 1, 2016. The new risk based inspection system identifies the status of foodborne illness risk factors and public health intervention.

### Schools

Staff has finished inspections for the fall 2016 semester. During inspections, emphasis has been placed on outbreak procedures and protocol relevant to managing them. There have been two (2) gastro-intestinal illness outbreaks reported in late October that staff have evaluated and monitored as well as responding by collecting stool specimens. Environmental investigation has not as of this writing been conducted, however may follow if the outbreaks continue to grow. Staff has worked diligently along with the Communicable Disease Program to make the necessary contacts to ensure that all measures are being instituted to control the outbreaks.

### Invasive Body Decoration

Public workshops to discuss the new proposed Invasive Body Decoration regulations were held November 8th at 5:30pm and November 9th at 12:30pm in the Health District South Conference Room. Staff will take input from these meetings to produce a final draft to present to the District Board of Health in the coming months.

### Solid Waste Management Plan

The Washoe County Health District (WCHD) acting as the Solid Waste Management Authority (SWMA) for Washoe County has developed the 2016 Solid Waste Management Plan for Washoe County as required by NRS 444.510. Part of these requirements is the development and five year update of a Solid Waste Management Plan for Washoe County which clearly demonstrates the proper management and disposal of solid waste within the County. The purpose of the 2016 Plan is to ensure the protection and promotion of our environment to the people who live, work and visit Washoe County. The 2016 Plan is a collaborative effort of various solid waste management stakeholders in the community to develop a plan which demonstrates the current status and future path towards better solid waste management within our community. The Plan will be presented to the District Board of Health for Adoption during the December, 2016 meeting.

### Preparedness and Emergency Medical Services

The EMS Advisory Board and the District Board of Health approved a Washoe County EMS Five-Year Strategic Plan during their October 2016 meetings. The plan was created between August 2015 and October 2016 to guide the future direction of the Washoe County EMS System. The assessment process evaluated the strengths and weaknesses, as well as the opportunities and threats facing the EMS system from national, regional and local influences. The information obtained through the analysis created goals to optimize the structure, processes, and outcomes of the EMS Five-Year Strategic Plan, focusing on: 1) maintaining or improving clinical care and patient satisfaction; and 2) improving operational efficiency and collaboration across the region.

The EMS Coordinator, the REMSA EMS Manager and Saint Mary's personnel conducted Mutual Aid Evacuation Annex (MAEA) training at Northern Nevada Medical center on October 17. Multiple area healthcare facilities had staff that would respond to an evacuation incident attend. The participants had an opportunity to learn about the MAEA and the patient tagging and tracking system. Then the 22 attendees used what they just learned to walk through the processes of an evacuation of 20 "patients" in a tabletop exercise.

The EMS Coordinator conducted a full-scale evacuation exercise on October 19. The exercise scenario involved a complete evacuation of Tahoe Pacific Hospital – Meadows due to a power outage and malfunction of the back-up generator system. The exercise included more than 80

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staff and volunteers from 13 agencies. The Final AAR/IP was distributed to the participating agencies on October 31.

#### Truckee Meadows Health Communities (TMHC)

A Family Health Festival was provided at Reno Town Mall on October 19.

Truckee Meadows Healthy Communities is forming a 501(c)(3) not-for-profit entity and Ms. Sharon Zadra has joined the organization as its Director.

#### Additional Information

Detailed monthly reports from each of the WCHD Divisions are available in the District Board of Health monthly meeting packets at:

[https://www.washoecounty.us/health/board\\_committees/dboh/index.php](https://www.washoecounty.us/health/board_committees/dboh/index.php).