

Date: February 1, 2023
To: State Board of Health Members
From: Kevin Dick
Northern Nevada Public Health Officer
Subject: March 2024 Northern Nevada Public Health Officer Report

Office of the District Health Officer

Recruitment of New District Health Officer – District Board of Health Chair, Sparks City Councilman Kristopher Dahir, is leading the recruitment effort for a new District Health Officer. A national search is being conducted by Berkeley Search Consultants. The initial application period closed on February 5. Finalist candidates will be interviewed by the District Board of Health during their regularly scheduled meeting on March 28. I have agreed to continue serving as the District Health Officer through the month of April.

NNPH Communications Update - As with previous Januarys, the NNPH Comms team fielded multiple media requests about respiratory diseases, both in English and Spanish. We executed a dozen media interviews or inquiries regarding RSV, flu, and our vaccine event Jan. 24. Food safety was also a popular media inquiry as we guided KOLO through a mock inspection and discussed our placarding pilot program. We also fielded public record requests about inspections for This Is Reno and the Reno Gazette-Journal. For CCHS, Gus Marquez talked about STIs, and Yeraldin Deavila talked about HPV for the A Tu Salud reports on Juan 101.7, while Kelli Goatley-Seals discussed health habits for the new year. A random media request from Business Insider came in regarding a local subway where a customer complained about a white substance that made their lips numb. Lastly, our Air Quality Management Division reported zero days in 2023 where the air quality was unhealthy for sensitive groups, a marked achievement.

Cultural Competency (DEICC) Training -The asynchronous cultural competency training for public health professionals is finalized, published, available on the Larson Institute's website. This collaboration included Northern Nevada Public Health (NNPH), DEI consultant Tiffany Young, the Larson Institute for Health Impact and Equity, and statewide equity partners. The training is a 6-hour interactive course that explores and details the critical role cultural competency plays in the public health workforce's efforts to address health disparities and advance health equity. By taking this course learners will gain the knowledge and skills needed to engage in practices that will allow them to better serve diverse communities. Additionally, the training features unique perspectives and case studies from NNPH and other partners throughout the state.

Sustainable Public Health Funding -Initial information regarding Governor Lombardo's Three-Year Strategic Plan was published on February 12th by the Nevada Independent. The article cited and contained a link to a presentation on the plan. The plan consists of six major elements:



- Education and workforce
- Economic growth and business development
- Health and wellness
- Public safety and infrastructure
- Government support services
- Rural and natural resources

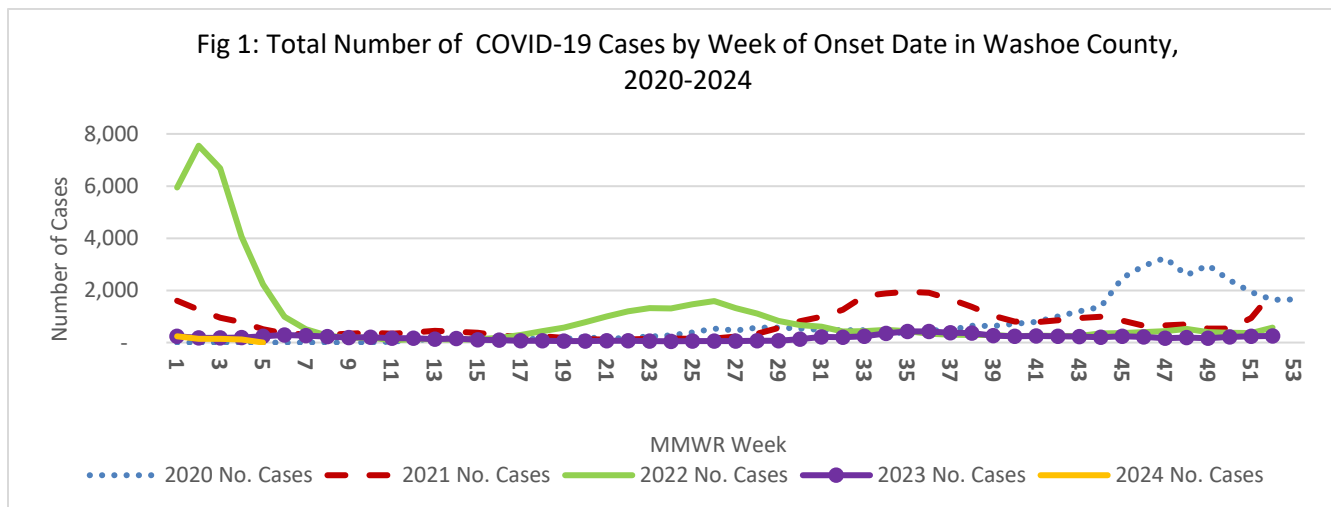
Within Element 3, the Health and Policy Section, the plan identifies 3.2 - Improving Access to Primary Care and Public Health Services, and 3.2.3 - Identify Dedicated Funding Streams for Public Health Services. The Plan calls for departments and agencies to create measurable indicators of progress towards the priority. It also calls for bill draft requests, budget enhancements, and regulations to fit within or be directly linked to one or more of the priorities.

The Governor’s plan is in alignment with the District Board of Health Legislative priorities and NNPH’s objective of obtaining ongoing dedicated and sustainable non-categorical funding for public health. Following passage of SB118 in the 82nd legislative session, providing a total of \$15 million Statewide in non-categorical public health funding that can be spent during FY25 and FY26, NNPH will work with the Governor’s office, NDHHS and NDPBH, and State legislators to pursue the Governor’s goal of dedicated and sustained funding for public health in Nevada.

Epidemiology Program and COVID Epidemiology Branch

SARS-CoV-2 (COVID-19) – During the month of January, 738 new COVID-19 cases were reported among Washoe County residents.

Figure 1 provides an overview of the total number of confirmed COVID-19 cases reported to Washoe County to date by MMWR week from 2020 through the end of January 2024.



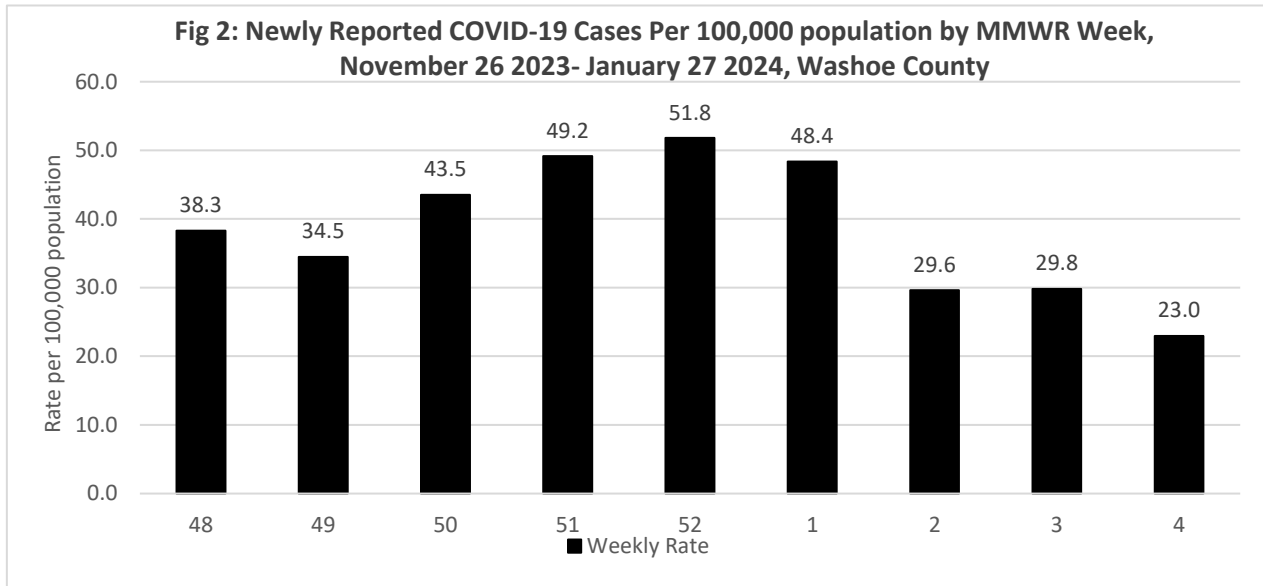
Note: there is no MMWR week 53 in 2021, 2022, or 2023

*If illness onset date is missing or unknown, specimen collection date is used

**Data through Saturday, January 27, 2024



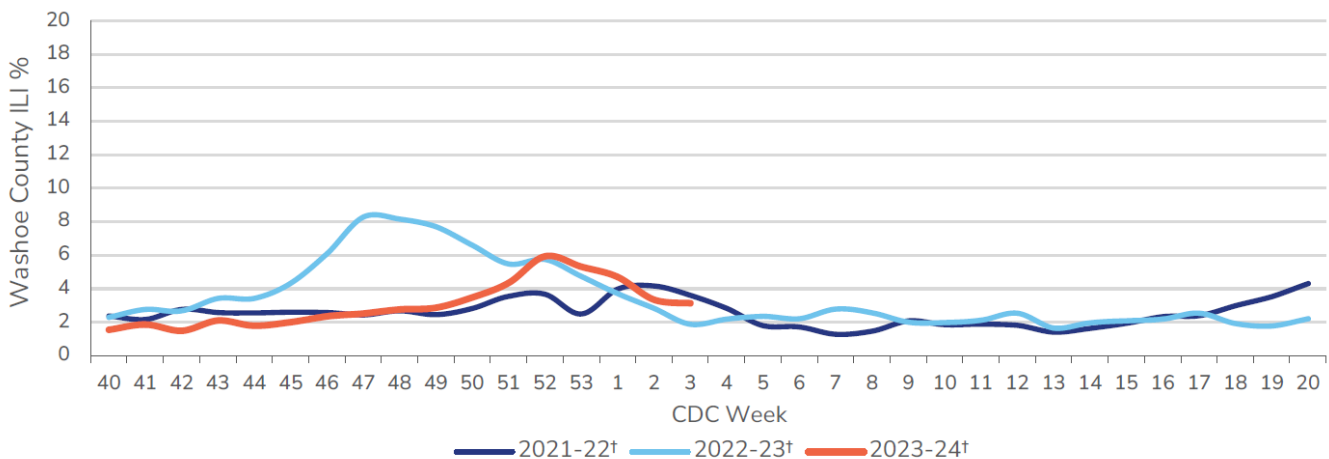
Figure 2 illustrates the number of new cases by either illness onset or specimen collection date (if onset date is unknown or case was asymptomatic) per 100,000 population over the course of a nine-week period, from the last week in November 2023 through the January 27, 2024. As of MMWR week 4, Washoe County was at 23.0 new cases per 100,000 population.



*If illness onset date is missing or unknown, specimen collection date is used

Influenza-like Illness – Influenza season officially began in MMWR week 40, October 1, 2023. Figure 3 provides a snapshot of the percent of patients presenting to sentinel surveillance providers with influenza-like illness (ILI) defined as fever ($\geq 100^{\circ}\text{F}$ [37.8°C]) and cough and/or sore throat. Figure 4 illustrates respiratory syncytial virus (RSV) cases reported by week. The recent two seasons are notably higher in RSV cases reported than the 10 seasons prior.

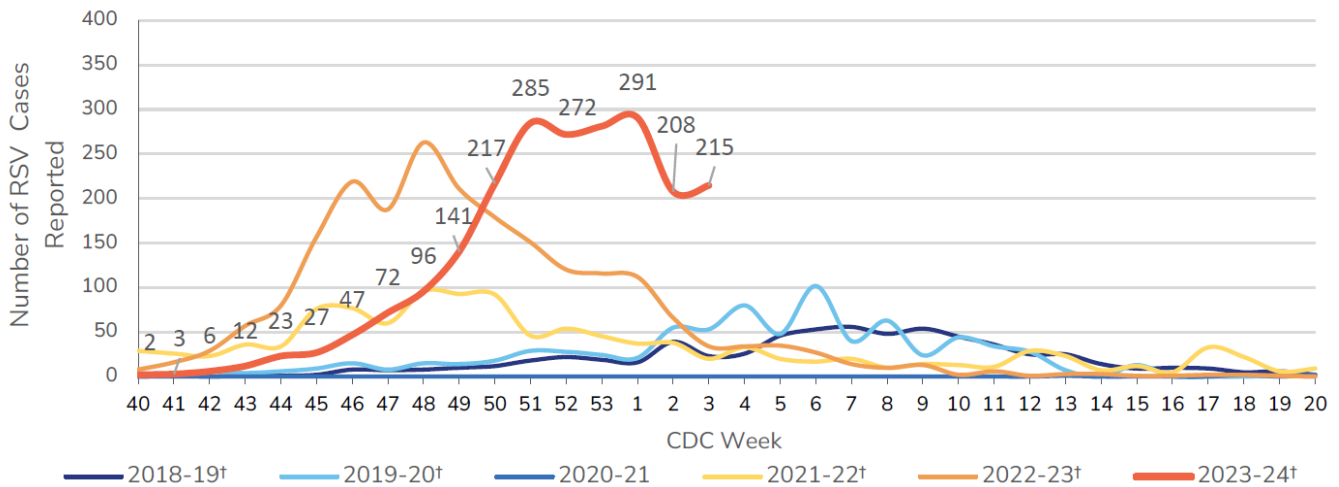
Fig 3. ILI Activity Reported by Sentinel Providers, Washoe County, 2021-2023 Seasons†



† Does not have a week 53, so the week 53 value is an average of week 52 and week 1.



Fig 4. Number of RSV Cases Reported by Week, Washoe County, 2018-2023 Seasons†



† Does not have a week 53, so the week 53 value is an average of week 52 and week 1.

Outbreaks – There were 18 newly declared outbreaks in January 2024. There were six (6) “other” outbreaks, four (4) of those were RSV confirmed, one (1) hand foot and mouth disease (HFMD), and one (1) was pink-eye. Additionally, there were five (5) influenza confirmed, three (3) respiratory (no etiology identified), three (3) gastrointestinal outbreaks, and one (1) COVID-19 confirmed outbreak.

Table 1: Number of Outbreaks Declared by Type and Month, 2024

Type	Jan	Feb	March	April	May	June	July	Aug	Sept	Oct	Nov	Dec
Gastrointestinal Illness	3											
Respiratory Illness	3											
Influenza Confirmed	5											
COVID Confirmed	1											
Rash Illness	0											
Other	6											
Total	18	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0

Epi News – Epi News is a brief (1-3 page) newsletter that has been produced and disseminated by the Epidemiology Program since 1997. Epi News publications are emailed and faxed to 700-800 subscribers, are topic dependent, and are available at <https://www.nnph.org/programs-and-services/ephp/communicable-diseases-and-epidemiology/epi-news/index.php>.

In January, there were two (2) Epi News newsletters published:

- **VISA/VRSA:** vancomycin intermediate *Staphylococcus aureus* (VISA) or vancomycin resistant *Staphylococcus aureus* (VRSA) are *Staphylococcus aureus* (staph) infections which are not susceptible to vancomycin. Vancomycin is an important drug for treating staph infections which are resistant to other antibiotics. Only 16 VRSA infections have been reported in the United States and none in Nevada. This Epi News details the laboratory cut-off points to send specimens to the Nevada State Public Health Laboratory for further testing and classification.
- **2023 Q4 Reporting and Stats:** the quarterly comparison showed that RSV, influenza A, and campylobacteriosis are the top three diseases with increases, and COVID-19, elevated blood lead

levels, and carbapenem resistant organisms (CRO) had the largest decreases when compared to the mean of the five previous quarter 4 (Q4) disease morbidity from 2018 through 2022.

Other Reports –

- The monthly COVID Report was published on January 12, 2024. The report includes data for COVID cases reported over the past month including case counts by demographic variables, vaccination status, hospitalizations, and deaths among Washoe County residents. <https://www.nnph.org/programs-and-services/ephp/communicable-diseases-and-epidemiology/educational-materials/COVID-19.php>
- The 2023 Quarter 4 CPO Surveillance Report, a cumulative report, was published January 17, 2024. The report details summary data for persons reported by Washoe County healthcare facilities with either carbapenem resistant or carbapenem producing organisms. This report and previous reports are available at <https://www.nnph.org/programs-and-services/ephp/communicable-diseases-and-epidemiology/healthcare-professionals/CPO.php>.

General Communicable Diseases – The Epidemiology Program Manager attends a weekly meeting with state partners for the implementation of EpiTrax as challenges are addressed. Several validation processes are in place to verify reporting is accurate. During the month of January, there were 995 positive labs reported (874 were RSV), with 92% resulting in a confirmed, probable, or suspect case.

Epidemiology Program Cross Divisional Projects

Environmental Health Services – The Epidemiology Program is building a database to detect and track foodborne, waterborne, and other enteric illnesses. This database will house both lab-confirmed cases received and interviewed by epidemiologists as well as food-establishment complaints received by the Environmental Health Services Division staff. Having multiple data sources inputting into a single database should assist in earlier detection of potential outbreaks and trends in enteric conditions and illness. Due to complex coding requirements, Epidemiology Program staff have been working with the CDC to help design and implement the database.

Public Health Preparedness (PHP) Program

Public Health Emergency Preparedness (PHEP) -

The Nevada Division of Public and Behavioral Health (DPBH) hosted a Strategic Plan Kick-off Meeting on December 7, 2023, in Carson City. This meeting was set to review the previous 5-year plan for the State and plan for the next 5-year grant cycle. As a follow-up to the meeting, all jurisdictions will participate in various workgroups on grant related focus planning, which include subgroups focused on resource/supply chain, behavioral health, health equity, information management, administration/fiscal, pediatrics, statewide bed availability, and clinical advisors. In January, PHP staff attended meetings for all workgroups except statewide availability which has yet to take place. The next statewide planning meeting is scheduled for February 20.



A communications call-down drill was conducted by PHP with the Northern Nevada Public Health (NNPH) staff. A CodeRed message was sent to NNPH employees on January 2, 2024, reminding them of the next day’s NNPH General Staff Meeting and asking them to sign-in at the meeting. The CodeRed system attempted contact through calls, emails and text messages.

The NNPH Medical Reserve Corps (MRC) conducted a communications/activation drill on January 11, 2024, to exercise the capacity of our electronic communications and the ability of the MRC Program to respond. Communications will be further exercised throughout the year with the intent to improve communications and response.

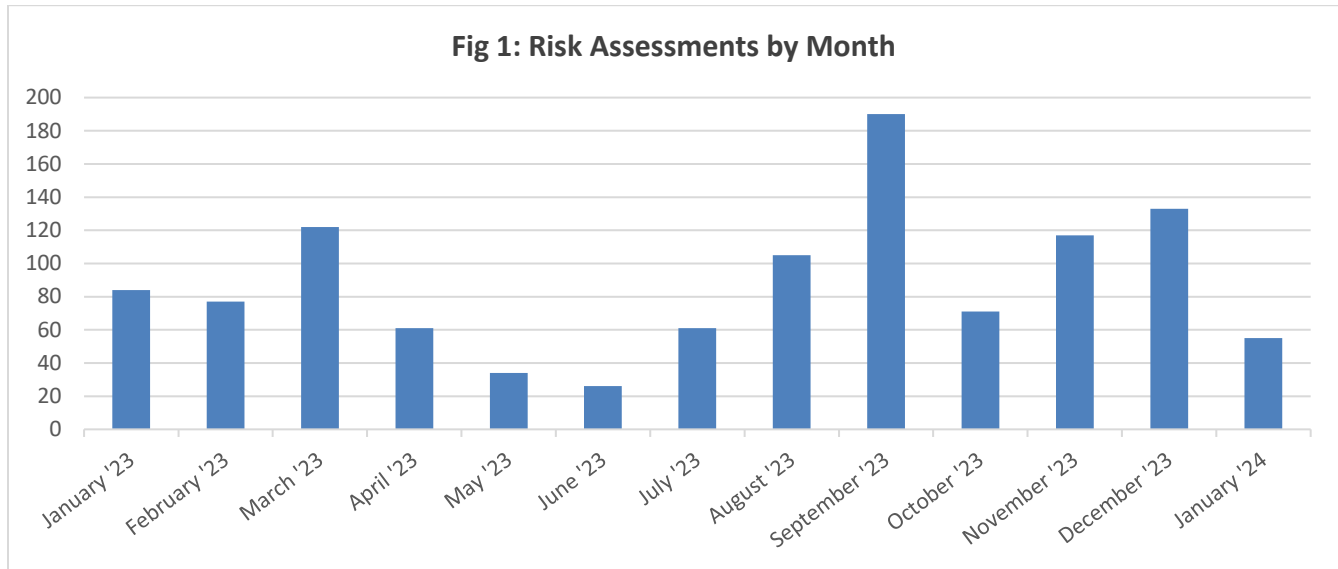
The PHEP program continues to coordinate with Washoe County schools (public, private and charter) to assist in developing emergency planning processes for their Emergency Operations Plans (EOP) based on Nevada Revised Statute (NRS) 388.241. To date, PHP has attended four school EOP meetings since October 2023.

Planning continues for a multiday chemical emergency exercise to be held on April 9 and 10, 2024. This exercise is designed to provide an opportunity to work through an emergency response event dealing with a Weapon of Mass Destruction (WMD). The first day of the exercise will be a tabletop exercise that focuses on the coordination between hospitals, the State Laboratory, Law Enforcement and the NNPH Epidemiology team on the processing of an emerging disease. The second day will focus on the coordination of emergency response services based on the identification of a terrorist cell and WMD agent.

COVID-19 Testing –

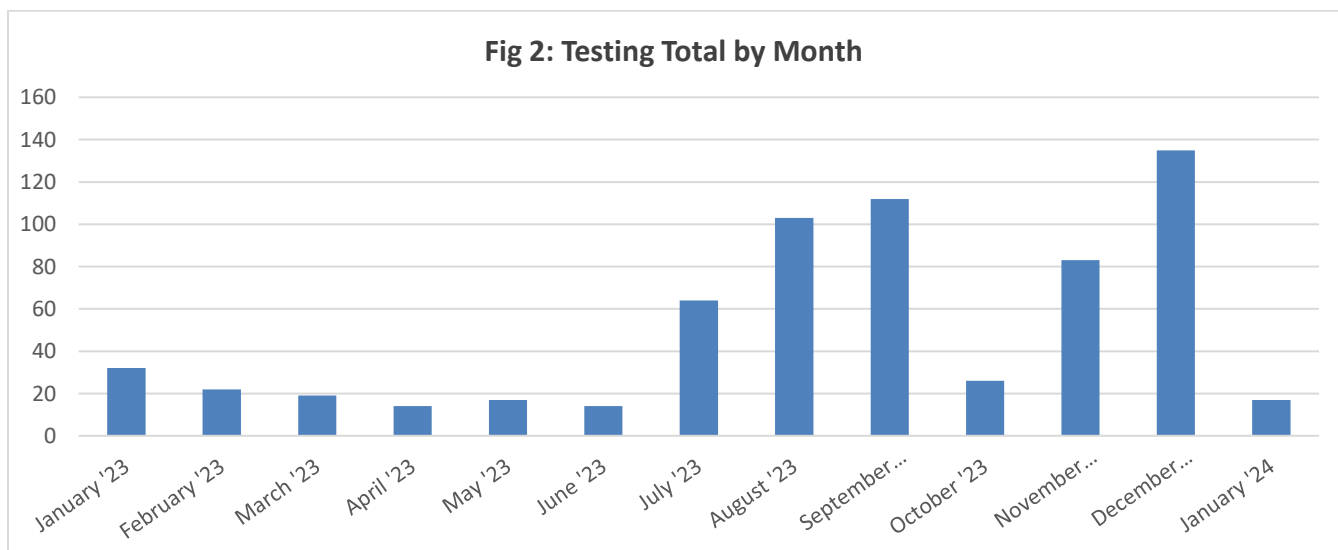
Risk Assessments and Tests Performed –The Call Center received 55 Risk Assessments for the month of January 2024, a decrease of 59% compared to December 2023. Some Risk Assessments were entered by end-users through the web portal, and others were entered by the Call Center staff. Table 1 summarizes Risk Assessments received by the Call Center since the beginning of 2021, while Figure 1 graphs the data since January 2023.

Table 1. Total Risk Assessments		
Month Reported	Risk Assessments	Inc/Dec Compared to Previous Month
2021 Totals	55,371	
2022 Totals	26,871	
2023 Totals	1,081	
January 2024	55	-59%



Testing continued two days per week via home visits. A total of 17 tests were conducted through the end of January 2024, a decrease of 87% over December 2023. Table 2 summarizes the number of tests performed to date since the beginning of 2021, while Figure 2 graphs the data since January 2023.

Month Reported	Tests Performed	Inc/Dec Compared to Previous Month
2021 Totals	30,996	
2022 Totals	7,892	
2023 Totals	641	
January 2024	17	-87%



Healthcare Preparedness Planning (HPP)/Inter-Hospital Coordinating Council (IHCC) –

Hospital Preparedness Program (HPP) staff have developed and collected survey results based on new grant capabilities, which serves to help analyze resources and gaps for the healthcare partners. The results have been analyzed and will be shared with the different provider types to establish their top priorities for the next fiscal year. The top priorities will be included in the Preparedness Planning Guidelines. Analysis of the Hazard Vulnerability Assessment (HVA) results is ongoing, and results will be shared with the coalition upon completion. In February, the Director of Emergency Management at Kaiser will be joining the IHCC Finance Subcommittee meeting to share more information about the HVA template.

Skilled Nursing, Memory Care, and Assisted Living facilities requested that a 10-15 minute video be created on the Mutual Aid Evacuation Agreement (MAEA) with the purpose of training staff members and incorporating the video into the onboarding process. The completion of this video will address the top priorities identified by these provider types from FY24's resource and gap analysis. The video will be filmed at Life Care Center of Reno in February.

On January 11, 2024, HPP conducted a Home Health, Hospice, and Dialysis Data Collection Exercise. The objective of this exercise is to identify if Home Health, Hospice, and Dialysis partners can successfully pull patient information and securely send information to the Medical Service Unit (MSU) in the event of an emergency that would require evacuation. These exercises will continue every other month as requested by the involved partners.

Review and revision of IHCC plans including the Response Guide and Preparedness Planning Guidelines continues.

HPP staff conducted a multi-casualty incident (MCI) training with Saint Mary's Regional Medical Center on January 23 and 24, 2024, as this was an area of improvement identified from the Triennial Airport Exercise held in May 2023.

The HPP staff continues to participate in the weekly Hospital Net, a Ham Radio communications drill among hospitals in Northern Nevada and Eastern California. The purpose of the Net is to improve redundant communications during a disaster.

Emergency Medical Services (EMS) Oversight Program

EMS Joint Advisory Committee (JAC) - The JAC has assigned all relevant Washoe County EMS Strategic Plan 2023-2028 goals. Partners continue to use the Microsoft Project tracking tool and many objectives are already underway. The Secure File Transfer Protocol (SFTP) site is close to implementation and serves as the final piece to fulfilling the data sharing agreement signed last spring.

REMSA Franchise – The Program is continuing documentation review for demonstration of FY23 compliance. The Franchise Map Review is also underway as the Program collaborates with Washoe County GIS to summarize call volumes.



Vital Statistics

Vital Statistics has continued to serve the public through the mail, online and in-person. During the month of January, Vital Statistics staff registered 554 deaths and 539 births; 10 death and 24 birth corrections were made. Program staff also submit weekly records on decedent information for HIV/AIDS and a monthly update to senior services.

Table 1: Number of Processed Death and Birth Records

January	In Person	Mail	Online	Total
Death	1867	27	470	2364
Birth	885	19	485	1389
Total	2752	46	955	3753

Community and Clinical Services Division

2023 Year in Review – CCHS has focused efforts on creating a positive and productive work environment through addressing workload and span of control challenges.

- i. Sustainability – CCHS continues to focus on revenue and reimbursement through refining and enhancing billing efforts. Total program revenue through billing for clinical services provided for FY23 was \$653,472.70. Improved cost recovery helps with the sustainability of our valuable services to the community.
- ii. Lobby Reconfiguration – The reconfiguration of the lobby came to fruition in 2023. The structure which previously housed immunization clerical staff was demolished, and a new structure was constructed. The new structure houses clerical staff for immunizations, family planning and sexual health. All clients now check in and check out through the main lobby.
- iii. Centralized Clerical – The reconfiguration of the lobby facilitated the centralization of clerical staff. Staff are being cross trained to allow for immunization, family planning, and sexual health clients to be served by any clerical staff member. The goal of centralization is to improve workflow and the customer experience.
- iv. Community Health Workers – Community Health Workers (CHWs) continue to be integral to CCHS services. The Family Planning Sexual Health program added a CHW, bringing the total to four in the division. Some CHW 2023 achievements include:
 1. Successfully on-boarded and cross-trained two Community Health Workers
 2. Facilitated NNPH becoming a Mobile Harvest site
 3. Partnered with local organizations to increase Cribs for Kids referrals
 4. Participated in media interviews in Spanish, increasing NNPH reach regarding chronic disease and immunizations

5. Supported development of Washoe Suicide Prevention Alliance including development of website
6. Restarted Walk and Talk at Washoe County Sheriff's Office to provide education about the LARC program and other services available in CCHS
7. Development of flyer with information about services available in the immunization clinic
8. Worked with program staff to recruit clients for community-based HIV/STI testing and family planning services at TMCC

v. Clinic Services – The Immunization program was the recipient of two Immunize Nevada Big Shot awards: 2023 Big Shots Nevada State Champion Award for the Most COVID doses administered in 2022 and Silver Syringe Award for Outstanding Influenza Immunization Partner. The immunization program was tasked with navigating through the changes of commercialization of the COVID vaccines. This resulted in many changes to policies and procedures, addition of fees, and changes in inventory procedures. The immunization team also navigated implementing the new RSV injection for infants while juggling a national shortage. The Family Planning Sexual Health Program dedicated a provider every day to walk-in and same day appointments. This addition to services greatly increased walk-ins in 2023. In 2022 there were 802 walk-ins and in 2023 there were 1589 walk-ins. The Sexual Health program completed Academic Detailing training. This training provides a framework for greater communication and rapid cycle training with community providers in the areas of disease reporting, appropriate testing, treatment, prevention methods, and identification of disease symptomology. Several new staff joined the team and are going through various stages of training.

vi. Chronic Disease and Injury Prevention – The CDIP had a successful year in 2023 with many notable accomplishments:

1. Released the 2023 Chronic Disease and Injury Prevention Data Report as a comprehensive data resource on chronic disease and injuries, including leading health indicators
2. Transitioned one full-time team member from working on youth vaping prevention to 5210 Healthy Washoe. 5210 is new funding that was secured and started July 1, 2023
3. Reached many community members through presentations and outreach on a variety of topics: vaping prevention to middle and high school students, cessation resources to health care providers, suicide prevention to Health

District staff, cannabis smoke messages to the general public, smoke free policies to coalition members, and wellness topics to seniors

4. Celebrated successes with specific activity areas:
 - Worked with the Reno Aces to introduce healthy food options to Greater Nevada Field during the 2023 season
 - Advanced Healthy Corner Store efforts by introducing fresh fruits and vegetables provided by a local grower, recruiting a new store, hosting a large media event, and producing eight promotion videos

- Researched, planned, and developed a lethal means prevention coalition called Washoe County Suicide Prevention Alliance
- Reaching teachers and 900 students about physical activity and nutrition through the Coaches Challenge program
- Completed a walking audit in Sun Valley and initiated a Walking School Bus with Cold Springs Elementary School
- Replaced a convenience store's window front with healthy messaging, removing the tobacco advertising
- Increased the number of Smoke Free Multiunit Housing units in our community by 353 units

vii. WIC - WIC had an eventful year in 2023 with many successes:

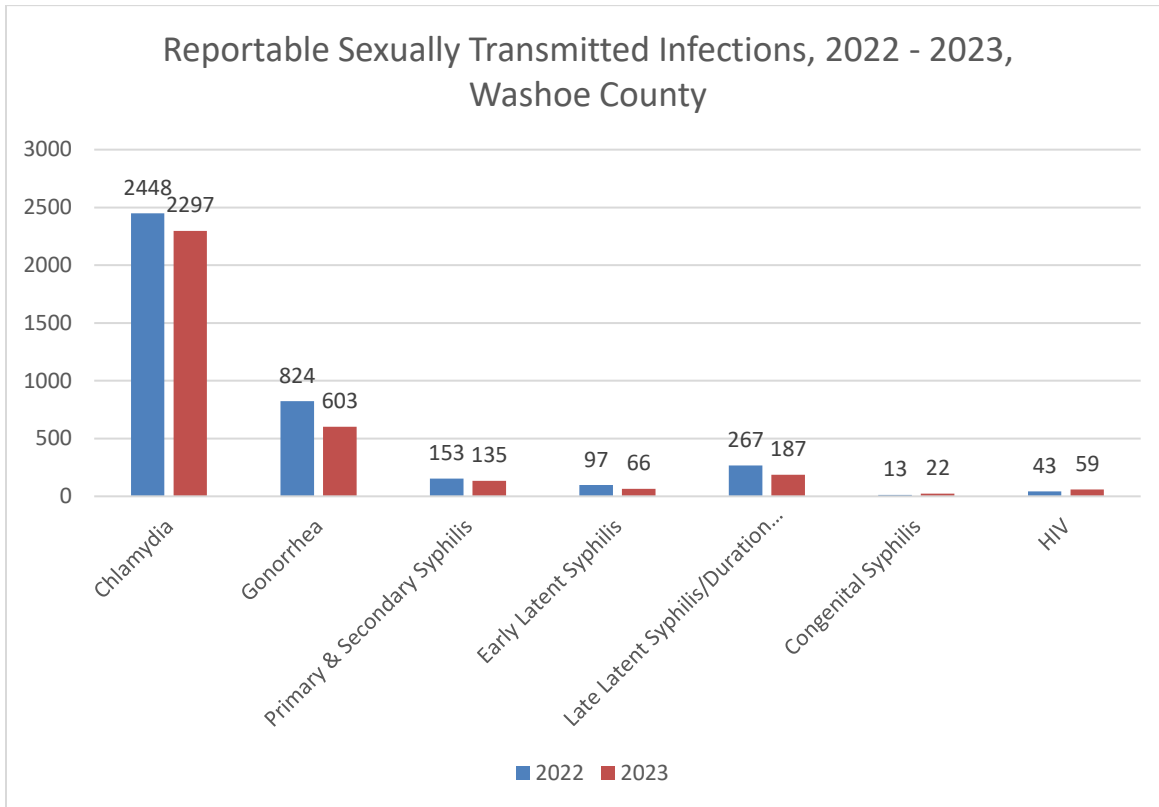
1. The WIC program completed a program audit, which is done by the State WIC program and occurs every two years. The audit results noted an “abundance” of areas of excellence
2. Breastfeeding rates increased among participants with 80% of NNPH WIC participants ever breastfeeding compared to 78% last year. Breastfeeding support and education are key components of WIC
3. Staff successfully implemented the Farmers Market Nutrition Program, providing participants with resources and access to coupons to use on fruits and vegetables at local farmers markets
4. The WIC program successfully navigated various challenges and opportunities over the past year, including:
 - Reissued benefits when the cash value benefit for fruits and vegetables changed
 - Seeing more clients in-person for visits and to collect heights, weights, and hemoglobin when COVID waivers ended
 - Adapted to changes in policy related to infant formulas, including changes to the types of formulas available to clients
 - Staff trained new full-time and part-time staff

viii. Clinic Site Host – CCHS continues to be a clinical site for University of Nevada, Reno medical residents, Advanced Practice Registered Nurses, and nursing students. CCHS was added as a clinical site for nursing students from Unitek College this year. The educational experience provides our future healthcare providers with knowledge and understanding of how Public Health impacts our community.

In addition, the Sexual Health Program (Outreach and Disease Investigation) facilitated internships for bachelor's level students. The interns provided support to the syphilis jail testing project, media outreach, and the mail order condom distribution project.

Sexual Health (Outreach and Disease Investigation) – The Sexual Health Outreach and Disease Investigation program is closing out 2023 cases. This includes completing investigations and reconciling cases to contribute to statewide and national reports. This data indicates a rebound from data reported during the COVID pandemic that was likely lower due to decreased testing availability and related services. Preliminary data suggests that there were decreases from 2022 to 2023 in reported chlamydia cases (6.2%),

gonorrhea (26.8%) cases, and certain stages of syphilis (primary and secondary, early latent, late latent/unknown duration). Increases in congenital syphilis (69.2%) and HIV (37.2%) occurred.



Data released by the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) for 2022 indicates a decrease in chlamydia nationally, with increases in gonorrhea, syphilis, and congenital syphilis. National HIV data has not been released for 2022.

Planned 2024 activities include increased provider education regarding opportunities for testing and treatment, especially among people of childbearing capacity. Increased intensity of syphilis investigations is being planned as well, with more attempts to contact and expanded perimeters to conduct field visits.

THE STATE OF STIS IN THE UNITED STATES, 2022

CDC's 2022 STI Surveillance Report underscores that STIs must be a public health priority

- 1.6 million** CASES OF CHLAMYDIA (6.2% decrease since 2018)
- 648,056** CASES OF GONORRHEA (11% increase since 2018)
- 207,255** CASES OF SYPHILIS (80% increase since 2018)
- 3,755** CASES OF SYPHILIS AMONG NEWBORNS (183% increase since 2018)

LEARN MORE AT: www.cdc.gov/std/

ANYONE WHO HAS SEX COULD GET AN STI, BUT SOME GROUPS ARE MORE AFFECTED

- YOUNG PEOPLE AGED 15-24
- GAY & BISEXUAL MEN
- PREGNANT PEOPLE
- RACIAL & ETHNIC MINORITY GROUPS

LEFT UNTREATED, STIs CAN CAUSE:

- INCREASED RISK OF GIVING OR GETTING HIV
- LONG-TERM PELVIC/ABDOMINAL PAIN
- INABILITY TO GET PREGNANT OR PREGNANCY COMPLICATIONS

Immunizations – The immunization team continues to focus on providing vaccines to individuals who are uninsured or underinsured that may not be able to receive vaccines elsewhere. This extends to the youngest community members who are entering into their first RSV season.

Clinic staff vaccinated 309 clients while providing a total of 922 routine vaccinations in January. Staff accept walk-ins at all vaccine sites daily. The clinic continues to provide a Respiratory Syncytial Virus (RSV) preventive antibody injectable for RSV disease for target populations during respiratory season. Staff offer community provider education regarding vaccine storage and handling and inventory, in addition to addressing special medical and employee vaccine cases on-site.

In January, offsite staff provided a total of 21 COVID vaccines and 55 influenza vaccines. In addition, there were two community COVID and flu events held. Staff partnered with the Nevada International Center at the University of Nevada, Reno to host an event for refugee children to complete or continue their required vaccinations for school. Staff continue participating in the Mobile Harvest – Food Bank, held onsite at NNPH on the first Tuesday of every month to offer COVID and flu vaccines and vaccine information to the community. In addition, staff held a flu only POD onsite where 29 individuals, including two children were vaccinated. This flu only event was well advertised, and multiple local media outlets attended.

VFC (Vaccines for Children) Compliance and IQIP (Immunization Quality Improvement for Providers) visits continue. Staff completed follow-up visits for outstanding items and integrated COVID compliance visits into routine site visits. Four compliance and one IQIP visit were completed in January. VFC site visit reviewers coordinated the transfer of short-dated VFC vaccines on multiple occasions to ensure proper vaccine stewardship.

The program is progressing with a quality improvement project through May of 2024, with a focus on increasing vaccine communication and completion rates for adolescent immunizations. In addition, the program integrated Perinatal Hepatitis B Prevention Program (PHBPP) case management activities and reporting into routine operations for this grant year, with eight cases currently under management. The PHBPP is consulting with EPHP, SNHD, as well as the state program to develop updated Standard Operating Procedures.

Staff are already busy planning new outreach events for spring, summer (Back- To- School season), and fall (respiratory season).

Tuberculosis Prevention and Control Program – The NNPH TB Program is currently managing eight active TB cases – 6 pulmonary, 1 extra pulmonary, and 1 case of miliary/TB meningitis. The program is also currently managing over 20 clients with LTBI. The program continues to see an influx of class B’s coming into the area that need evaluation and treatment.

Reproductive and Sexual Health Services – The Family Planning Sexual Health Program staff have been busy completing reporting requirements, budget forecasting, and strategizing implementation of new services

and processes to provide high-quality, efficient client care. Program staff are currently working with the EMR vendor, Patagonia, to upload FPAR 2.0 data to Office of Population Affairs (OPA). This is a new process for uploading data as OPA now requires encounter level data for Family Planning visits instead of data for unduplicated clients. FPAR 2.0 data has been submitted and program staff will be working with Patagonia and OPA to correct any identified errors. On January 22, 2024, OPA approved a budget amendment submitted by program staff. This budget amendment will allow the Family Planning Sexual Health Program to contract with a media company to create public service announcements to inform potential clients about expanded services and hours offered by the clinic including walk-in appointments every day of the week and PrEP services.

Clinic staff are currently evaluating plans to return to curbside appointments for select client visits. During COVID precautions, curbside appointments were offered for some appointment types and multiple clients voiced satisfaction with curbside appointments. Clinic staff is currently working with CSD to install signage designating a parking spot for curbside appointments and hopes to restore this service by the end of February. I

In January, an MOU with Douglas County was approved that allows one of our APRNs to precept with the APRN at Douglas County to learn the colposcopy procedure. Colposcopy is the diagnostic procedure done after an abnormal cervical cancer screening to identify cancerous or precancerous cells on the cervix. There is currently no provider in Reno offering this diagnostic procedure to uninsured or under-insured clients. Our APRN completed the didactic portion of the training in July and is eager to receive hands on training so this much needed procedure can be added to clinic services.

In early January, clinic staff learned that the only surgical abortion provider in Northern Nevada had closed its doors. The option for referral to abortion services is a requirement for the Title X program and program staff immediately began researching out of state options for potential referrals. With the closing of the Reno clinic, current options for abortion services for clinic clients includes referral to Planned Parenthood in Reno for a medication-induced abortion (must be <75 days gestation) or referral to UCSF for a surgical abortion. CHW staff have identified an agency that can assist clients with transportation and funds in case there is a need to travel to San Francisco. Program staff is hopeful that another provider may start to offer surgical abortions in the Reno area in the next few months as travel out of state is a significant barrier for clients desiring this reproductive health service.

Chronic Disease and Injury Prevention (CDIP) Program – Staff reconvened the CHIP Preventative Health Behaviors Healthy Corner Store Subcommittee. Four community partners participated in the meeting to learn and share progress from year one and engage in discussion about aspirations for implementation in year two including continuation of fresh produce offerings, development of educational materials, and future store events.

Staff attended a 2-day Nevada Suicide Prevention conference in Reno, from January 11-12, 2024.

Staff coordinated and led a Washoe Suicide Prevention Alliance Advisory Team meeting on January 23, 2024, which was attended by nine local stakeholders that provided guidance on progress and future alliance activities.

Staff co-taught a 2-day Applied Suicide Intervention Skills Training (ASIST) from January 30-31, 2024, for the community, including Washoe County staff members.

Staff and ODHO released a request for proposal for a large scale 5210 media campaign. Staff will be reviewing proposals to select a vendor and the campaign is slated to run in the spring.

Staff supplied Renown Pediatrics, Northern Nevada HOPES Pediatrics, and Northern Nevada Health Systems Family Practice with 5210 Healthy Eating Active Living bookmarks, refrigerator magnets, youth activity books, mousepads, tote bags, and floor clings. These materials will help raise awareness of the 5210 message to support healthier behaviors.



Maternal, Child and Adolescent Health (MCAH) – Maternal, Child and Adolescent Health activities include Lead Screening, Newborn Screening, Cribs for Kids, and Fetal Infant Mortality Review (FIMR).

The NNPH Lead team works with the Nevada Department of Health and Human Services Lead Program Specialist Enrique Llamas. The NNPH Lead team is currently following twelve open cases. The Lead team continues to follow the recall of WanaBana Cinnamon Applesauce 2.5 oz and is educating local daycares about testing for Lead and the Wana Bana Recall.

Public Health Nurses and Community Health Workers (CHWs) continue to follow-up and provide coordination education and resources on referrals from the Nevada Newborn Screening Program to ensure all infants receive the second newborn screening.

NNPH CHW's held three Cribs for Kids class in January. Participants in Cribs for Kids classes are connected to REMSA for Point of Impact events for free car seats and installation by certified Child Passenger Safety Technicians. CHWs are Baby and Me Tobacco Free facilitators and promote PRAMS (Pregnancy Risk Assessment Monitoring System), Nevada 211 and Nevada Medical Home Portal.

The Fetal Infant Mortality Review Board (FIMR) meets monthly, except for June and December. The FIMR Board met on January 18, 2024, and reviewed four cases.

FIMR staff turned in a grant application to the National Center for Fetal Infant Mortality Review and Prevention on November 15, 2023. Awards announcements have been postponed to late January.

Staff continue to provide updates on fetal or infant deaths at the Washoe County Community Child Death Review as requested. The last Child Death Review meeting was held on December 1, 2023. Child Death Review Meetings are held every other month.

The Northern Nevada Maternal Child Health Coalition (NNMCHC) met on January 11, 2024. The next NNMCHC meeting is February 9, 2024. The Coalition is currently chaired by FIMR staff member Rebecca Gonzales and WIC staff member Kelcie Atkin. Items for the next round of Mama Care Kits have been ordered. NNMCHC is holding nominations for the executive board and voting will take place in February.

At the NNMCHC meeting in January, 1Care Kids, a pediatric palliative care program provided a presentation on complex pediatric issues..

Women, Infants and Children (WIC) – The WIC program was notified that an amendment will be issued to fund the program through early March based on the continuing resolution passed by the federal government in January.

The WIC team coordinated with the Immunization (IZ) program to implement a process that will allow the immunization records of WIC clients to be reviewed prior to their WIC appointments. If children or infants are due or behind on childhood vaccinations, they will be notified by WIC staff and referred to their provider or the NNPH IZ program.

Staff completed an audit of NNPH WIC breast pumps and breast-feeding supplies which was requested by the state to aid in the decision-making process regarding breastfeeding supply orders.

Community Health Workers (CHWs) - The Community Health Workers remain busy with individual client navigation as well as outreach events. During January, clients were provided with an array of community resources including PrEP navigation, resources for behavioral health and substance use treatment, housing resources, clothing and household supplies, and other health care resources. Outreach events included assisting 54 families with access to fresh food, fruits, and vegetables at Mobile Harvest, two community vaccine events, and an event at Sparks High School for pre-K families. One CHW has started a special project with the WIC and Immunization programs that involves communicating to WIC clients when their child is due or overdue for vaccine services and how to obtain those vaccines at the Immunization Clinic.

In January, the CHWs learned that REMSA would no longer be administering the Cribs 4 Kids program. The Cribs 4 Kids program is essential education for infant caregivers as it provides education on safe sleep practices as well as provision of a safe sleep surface. The CHWs are currently working with Anthem Blue Cross to continue providing this vital program until another administering agency takes over the program. The CHWs also received approval for a Letter of Agreement between NNPH and Planned Parenthood to provide 2 evidence-based teen pregnancy prevention interventions to our community. The CHWs will be providing the

LIFT program and the Plan A intervention to the community. The LIFT program is a 6-hour educational session for teens and caregivers that teaches them the tools to have more open and honest communication. It teaches caregivers how to be an askable adult and teaches teens how to better communicate with their caregivers. The Plan A intervention is already being offered to adolescents 15-19 years old and will continue to be offered. Plan A is an “edutainment” intervention that provides sexual and reproductive health education in an entertaining and informative manner.

Environmental Health Services

SB92 Update

Background

Senate Bill 92 (SB92) was a bill introduced that established certain requirements for the regulation of sidewalk vendors in counties with a population of 100,000 or more. The bill does the following:

- provides the requirements for counties and cities looking to regulate sidewalk vendors
- require local board of health to adopt certain regulations for sidewalk vendors selling food
- creates a Task Force on Safe Sidewalk Vending (“TASK FORCE”) within the Office of the Secretary of State

According to the bill, a governing body of a county or city may adopt an ordinance regulating sidewalk vendors; and require the governing body of a county or city that adopts such an ordinance to post on its Internet website a map of the areas where a person may engage in the act of sidewalk vending.

This bill requires a local board of health to adopt regulations to establish a process for a person to apply for a permit or license as a sidewalk vendor and allow those applying to: (1) pay any fees required by the local board of health using a payment plan; and (2) obtain any necessary certification as a food handler if the person does not have a driver's license or identification card. Additionally, the bill requires that the local board of health include any other regulation determined to be necessary by the TASK FORCE.

Impacts on NNPH

Permitting of Sidewalk Vendors

NNPH regulations currently allow for street food vending under the category of “mobile food unit” or “portable food unit.” To obtain one of these permits, the applicant must:

- complete a Health Permit to Operate, a Mobile/Portable Unit and Servicing Area Operational Review packet,
- a Servicing Area Agreement form,
- submit a menu detailing the food items to be served, and
- pay all applicable fees.

Once these items are received and reviewed, an NNPH inspector will contact the applicant to schedule an opening inspection. Once the unit and servicing area meet all applicable requirements, the permit is issued and is good for one year after the permit issuance date.

Upon permit expiration, the applicant can pay the permit renewal fee and continue operations. Each Risk Level I and Risk Level II mobile/portable unit will receive at least one operational inspection per year, and each Risk Level III mobile/portable unit will receive at least two operational inspections per year. Operational requirements for a mobile or portable unit permits include:

- Approved servicing area for storage and/or food preparation depending on the equipment on the mobile (food cannot be prepared or stored in a private home).
- Equipment requirements are determined based on the menu and type of food handling processes.
- Equipment standards and requirements must meet NNPH regulations which are consistent with the nationwide FDA Food Code.
- Depending on the risk level assigned to the mobile/portable unit, a Certified Food Protection Manager (CFPM) may be required. Risk levels are assigned based on the complexity of food preparation processes and the types of foods prepared. Per the NNPH regulations, each:
 - Risk Level I establishment is exempt from the CFPM requirements;
 - Risk Level II establishment must employ a minimum of one full-time CFPM with direct supervision over foodservice activities and must be available via telephone when not physically present;
 - Risk Level III establishment must employ a minimum of one full-time CFPM who is the person-in-charge of the facility and is present during all hours of operation.

NNPH does not require the following for a mobile/portable unit permit:

- Limitations on where the mobile/portable can operate;
- Identification cards for permitting or CFPM certification.

All applications and additional resources on mobile and portable unit permitting can be found in English and Spanish on the NNPH website: <https://www.nnph.org/programs-and-services/environmental-health/food-protection-services/Mobile-and-Portable-Units.php> and <https://www.nnph.org/programs-and-services/environmental-health/food-protection-services/Mobile-and-Portable-Units.php>.

Payment Plan for Vendors

NNPH staff have successfully tested the ability for partial payments in an Accela test environment. Partial payments cannot be made online through Accela Citizen Access (ACA) portal at this time. Payments for a payment plan will need to be processed by NNPH staff in order to appropriately apply a partial payment. NNPH is currently working with Washoe County Tech Services to explore online partial payment options. Staff is working on finalizing a payment plan policy for Board discussion and approval.

Current Work

Some of the work being done by our jurisdictional partners:

- At this time, Washoe County is not amending its code. Washoe County staff has determined that the county's existing ordinance does not conflict with SB92. There is no desire to "opt in" to the "may" language items in the bill.



- At this time, the City of Reno has adopted amendments to the Reno Municipal Code for sidewalk vendors - Title 4, Chapter 4.08 of the Reno Municipal Code. The proposed changes became effective 1/19/24 and have a website up which includes the map identifying areas that are off limits per the bill (www.reno.gov/sidewalkvendors). Reno is still making adjustments to the website and educational materials, but the framework is in place.
- Additional information on what other jurisdictions are doing in Nevada can be found on the Secretary of State website: <https://www.nvsos.gov/sos/sos-information/secretary-of-state-boards-and-commissions/task-force-on-safe-sidewalk-vending>.

NNPH and Reno are conducting a joint townhall meeting on Thursday, February 22 from 5:30-7 p.m. at Reno City Council Chambers. The goal of the meeting will be to educate and help street food vendors on City of Reno and NNPH permitting, but also give attendees an opportunity to get their questions answered.

Task Force on Safe Sidewalk Vending

The most recent meeting of the Task Force on Safe Sidewalk Vending was held on February 8, 2024. The majority of the meeting was focused on a listening session with Ritu Mahajan, Directing Attorney for the Community Development Project, an advocacy group based in Southern California that has been aiding Sidewalk Vendors at the state and local levels in various cities and counties in California (Southern). Attorney Mahajan discussed different ordinances and requirements from local governments and health departments that her group has worked to change or discontinue allowing street food vendors to legally vend.

Zoning restrictions and distance requirements have been rolled back in some jurisdictions. Mahajan mentioned that some health departments have alleviated some requirements such as hot water for hand washing, while other departments are working with her group to look for ways to construct an approved food cart more affordably. Mahajan also mentioned that her group is looking to remove the requirement for commissary kitchens in some jurisdictions as well. While most of her examples were from LA County, she did not specify which cities and what health departments she was working with for the aforementioned changes.

It was requested by several members of the Task Force to have government agencies, (health departments included) tasked with permitting food trucks be available for a similar presentation at the next Task Force meeting. The Task Force would like to hear from a government perspective the impacts of the changes that the Community Development Project has made.

Food Safety Program – The NNPH Food Safety Program launched the pilot placarding project. Inspectors have started issuing physical color-coded scores after the completion of the routine inspection. If possible, the food establishment will display the score near the entrance to the food facility or near the point-of-sale system. Letting our community know what is happening regarding the safe handling of food helps customers to make informed health decisions and prevents foodborne illnesses in our community.

The NNPH Food Safety Program was awarded two grants from the National Environmental Health Association and the U.S. Food and Drug Administration. One grant will provide additional funding for food safety training of NNPH staff, and the other grant award is related to the National Association of



County and City Health Officials (NACCHO) Mentorship Program. This year, NNPH will be providing food safety regulatory program mentorship to three agencies, Yolo County Environmental Health Services Division, Detroit Health Department, and the Commonwealth Health Care Corporation, Northern Mariana Islands (CNMI). This will be third year NNPH has acted as a mentor for CNMI.

Food Safety Plan Review – The team has been busy with change of ownerships, plan review, predevelopment meetings with potential operators, and construction inspections for food establishments and mobile units.

The team has been working on updating and making flow charts for back flow requirements and creating a construction guidelines packet for potential food operators.

Staff has completed an advisory inspection for the new commissary kitchen facility “Nourish and Flourish” and helped educate their management on what is needed to meet NNPH-EHS food establishment requirements.

Temp Foods / Special Events – Staff worked the Sheep Show event held at the Reno Sparks Convention Center, which sees an attendance of approximately 10,000 people over the 3-day duration of the event.

Foodborne Illnesses – Staff conducted an investigation at a Reno restaurant in response to a foodborne disease complaint. Our staff did observe food safety violations that could lead to foodborne illness, which were corrected at the time of the inspection. Further inspections will be conducted at the restaurant to ensure violations remain corrected.

Epidemiology	JAN 2024	2023	2022	2021
Foodborne Disease Complaints	7	107	51	98
Foodborne Disease Interviews	4	102	47	59
Foodborne Disease Investigations	1	7	4	12
CD Referrals Reviewed	2	45	81	178
Product Recalls Reviewed	29	268	250	251

Commercial Plans / Development Reviews – Commercial plans continue to increase and the team is working on measures to ensure consistency with review. Environmental Health averaged 9 business days for all reviews in January 2023

Development reviews are decreasing and are currently 21% below year-over-year submittals compared to January 2023

Commercial Plans & Development Reviews		JAN 2024	2023	2022	2021
Development Reviews		47	449	494	400
Commercial Plan Review Submittals		152	1,814	1,555	1,169
Total Reviews Conducted		187	2,270		
% Plan Review meeting Regional Goal		76%			
Review Type Breakdown	Engineering	107	1,568		
	Food	40	400		
	Pool/Spa	3	84		
	Vector	29	278		
	Hotel/Motel	2	19		
	Environmental	4	78		
	UST / WM	2	7		



Permitted Facilities – Staff have identified multiple issues during routine school inspections. WCSD has reached out to work together to assist their staff with an inspection template or checklist so they can ensure compliance in the future.

Residential Septic & Well Plan Reviews – Thanks to January’s mild winter weather, the team’s inspection schedule stayed relatively busy all month with septic and well construction inspections. Staff continue to struggle with contractors not installing septic to approved plans, leading to increased inspection times and frequency. Staff will be exploring ways to help reduce these issues.

The team is working on updating the last of the SOP’s and revisiting previously updated SOP’s to ensure they are still accurate and reflect NNPH terminology.

Safe Drinking Water – The team met with Rural Community Assistance Corporation (RCAC) staff to discuss and plan a Lead and Copper Rule Revisions (LCRR) training course for local public water system operators. The training is a 6-hour course that will be led by RCAC staff at the NNPH office on Tuesday February 6th. It will cover the service line inventory requirements community and non-transient non-community water systems must complete by October 16, 2024.

The team also traveled to NDEP offices in Carson City to review water system files for documents associated with historical Lead and Copper sampling plans and service line inventories in order to provide the information to our local water operators.

Land Development	JAN 2024	2023	2022	2021
Plans Received (Residential/Septic)	55	828	999	918
Residential Septic/Well Inspections	43	1,004	1,436	1,282
Well Permits	4	90	141	150
Water Projects Received	1	12	25	40

Vector-Borne Diseases (VBD) - Staff have submitted the initial application packet to the FAA for the Certificate of Authorization/Waiver for the use of drones for mosquito abatement.

Staff attended the Mosquito and Vector Control Association of California annual conference in Monterey CA. The conference topics included a significant emphasis on drone use for mosquito abatement, FAA licensing, and the American Mosquito Control Association’s ongoing efforts to streamline the drone/FAA licensing process.

Vector	JAN 2024	2023	2022	2021
Total Service Requests	0	99	65	59
Mosquito Pools Tested	0	948	506	385
Mosquito Surveys and Treatments	0	242	791	821



Waste Management (WM)/Underground Storage Tanks (UST) – The UST team inspected 17 sites for January.

UST inspections are now being entered into Accela to allow for internal tracking and reporting.

Waste Management staff have received their facilities list for inspection for 2024 and have begun their inspections for the year.

Inspections:

EHS Inspections	JAN 2024	2023	2022	2021
Child Care	11	133	128	118
Food/Exempt Food	291	3576	4,419	4959
Schools/Institutions	13	300	292	291
Tattoo/Permanent Make-Up (IBD)	18	110	130	134
Temporary IBD Events	2	36	5	0
Liquid Waste Trucks	10	113	111	111
Mobile Home/RV Parks	7	108	121	117
Public Accommodations	10	68	139	151
Aquatic Facilities/Pool/Spas	23	739	712	1128
RV Dump Station	0	14	21	19
Underground Storage Tanks	17	202	161	4
Waste Management	16	166	132	146
Temporary Foods/Special Events	22	1358	1,174	766
Complaints	42	760	613	689
TOTAL				
EHS Public Record Requests	207	4,962	5,707	4,769

Complaints:

Complaint Breakdown	JAN 2024	2023	2022	2021
Food	26	336		
Permitted Facilities	3	41		
General	1	115		
Liquid Waste	3	67		
Solid Waste	9	201		

New Permits/Change of Ownership Inspections:

New Openings*	JAN 2024	2023	2022	2021
Child Care	0	8	8	8
Food/Exempt Food	31	524	486	479
Schools/Institutions	0	3	6	3
Tattoo/Permanent Make-Up	9	38	32	50
Liquid Waste Trucks	0	21	17	11
Mobile Home/RV Parks	1	42	8	5
Public Accommodations	0	19	9	9
Aquatic Facilities/Pool/Spas	0	48	28	41
RV Dump Station	0	0	3	2
Waste Management	1	13	8	6
TOTAL	42	716	605	614

*This table identifies new business opening inspections but does not include re-inspections during the opening process.