



## Central Nevada Health District Health Officer's Report

Submitted February, 20, 2025

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Attached is a summary of events and activities for the Central Nevada Health District (CNHD) for the December 2025-February 2025 quarter.

### Environmental Health

Routine food establishment/vendor inspections are up-to-date for the CNHD. New inspections consist of remodels, new building, change of ownership, and routine inspections. There're very few complaint inspections.

A comprehensive report on "Burning Man" event is to be presented to the CNHD Board March 13, 2025. An action plan is in process which includes consideration of fee changes. CNHD will provide the Nevada State BOH copies of the plan once completed and present to the Board well in advance of the event.

Preparation is ongoing for expansion of environmental services to include water systems and landfills in CNHD. The currently targeted start is for July 2025. Stake holders are currently being polled to determine extent of services, delivery of services and resources required to provide quality services. Current staffing levels and expertise have been deemed to be adequate to start in July 2025.

### Epidemiology

Central Nevada Health District respiratory illness statistics parallel what is seen in United States and the State of Nevada. Despite an increase in RSV and Flu cases in CNHD in the last few weeks we are still lower than state or national averages. Vaccination rates remain low throughout the CNHD.

Influenza and RSV rates remain elevated in Churchill County and Fallon. 138 cases were reported with 13 hospitalizations and one influenza death (65 year old with comorbidities) reported in Churchill County (12/28/2025). There were two other deaths reported 02/20/2025 in the CNHD, one in Mineral the other in Churchill County. Details are pending. Influenza Type A has been reported as the predominate virus type.

Eureka, Mineral, and Pershing Counties have RSV, influenza, and COVID-19 rates that are lower than regional or national numbers with no indications of increasing trends.

The Nevada Department of Agriculture (NDA) has reported avian flu virus in the milk of dairy cattle in Churchill County. Churchill County is home to 14 of the 18 large dairys in Nevada. The NDA has quarantined affected animals and monitors animals for new infections for resolution of

the virus. CNHD is available and has resources to assist the NDA and State of Nevada laboratory and epidemiology teams to support dairy workers with personal protective equipment, consultation, information, and testing.

The three hospitals in the CNHD are currently screening flu cases for risk factors related to the Subtype H5N1 virus (avian flu) and submitting specimens to the state laboratory for subtyping if risk profiles are met. The Churchill County laboratory has recently upgraded capabilities to be able to provide this service locally as necessary.

Information regarding all pertinent aspects and health advisory is information released by the CDC, state of Nevada Department of Health and Human Services, and Nevada Department of Agriculture have been made available to the community via social media and on the CNHD website. CNHD currently has 70 clinically related entities in and around the District that receive email releases of approved information.

All released information has been shared, previewed and reviewed prior to release by the CNHD to ensure accuracy and maintain a calm environment to effectively complete our public health mission in addressing all components of this event.

One human case has been confirmed with the only symptoms being conjunctivitis. No hospitalizations or severe symptoms discovered.

## Clinical

### **Family Planning & Sexual Health Services**

CNHD clinics have experienced a significant increase in the volume of family planning patients this quarter in comparison to previous quarters. Additionally, the number of patients eligible for and enrolled in the Women's Health Connection program has grown substantially. We have secured several new insurance contracts, which will expand the availability of family planning services to the local communities. Two Registered nurses from CNHD, together with two nurses from Southern Nevada Health District (SNHD) completed a specialized vaginal speculum training which was offered by Pacific AETC and University of San Francisco, CA (UCSF) and taught by Dr. Rosalyn Plotzker, and hosted by University of Nevada, Reno (UNR) allowing these nurses the ability to provide specialized STI testing and services.

### **Immunization & Outreach Services**

The immunization rates for both children and adults have decreased compared to the previous quarter. Efforts to increase vaccination rates have included distributing outreach flyers in all communities and on social media platforms, offering Influenza, COVID-19, and RSV vaccines to mitigate respiratory illnesses. In order to enhance awareness, a coloring book focusing on vaccines and vaccine-preventable diseases, along with childhood immunization schedules, has been supplied to local daycare centers for distribution among parents.

The Vaccines for Children (VFC) and Immunization Quality Improvement for Providers (IQIP) audits at Churchill and Mineral clinics were successfully completed without any compliance issues identified. In late February, vaccine coordinators from CNHD will be conducting VFC and IQIP audits of providers in Churchill and Pershing counties. The clinical staff has been emphasizing education and communication efforts to boost HPV immunization completion rates for adolescents in CNHD counties. Preparations are already underway for Spring (back-to-school) events.

Outreach efforts have been ongoing at senior centers in Churchill, Mineral, and Pershing counties. These efforts will be expanded to include Eureka starting in March. In Eureka, Catholic Charities will provide vaccines and outreach, catering to individuals who are insured and not eligible for 317 funded vaccines. In February, the organization conducted offsite influenza testing for dairy workers in Churchill County and supplied Tamiflu to those who were exposed to or exhibiting flu symptoms.

### **Tuberculosis Prevention & Control**

Tuberculosis prevention events involve the regular administration of QuantiFERON Gold tests to clients of the residential treatment facility in Churchill County. Additionally, nursing school and high school students, as well others in the community are offered TST skin tests. The clinic has noted a rise in the number of class B-waiver immigrants necessitating testing and follow-up for potential treatment of latent tuberculosis infection (LTBI).

### **Clinical Services**

A grant was awarded to Central Nevada Health District (CNHD) to obtain a new clinical electronic health record (EHR) system. This new system will meet compliance guidelines under NRS439.589 and allow patients to access their records electronically. Vendor demonstrations have been scheduled to evaluate potential systems. Additionally, a grant application has been initiated for the Healthy Tomorrows Partnership for Children Program (HTPCP) to support expanded immunization outreach efforts.

### **Public Health Preparedness**

The department continues to meet with emergency management partners to coordinate plans for emergency response and delivery of emergency vaccination PODS. Staff is attending Nevada Emergency Preparedness Association meeting February 2025.

## **Concerns**

CNHD clinical manager will be moving to Banner Churchill Hospital in March 2025. Administrative duties are currently being assigned to clinical nursing staff. After the 2025 legislative session, the position will be assessed and is financially feasible the clinical manager position will be posted for hiring period.

In the early developmental stages of the Central Nevada Health District our concern is to maintain a balanced budget and provide adequate services to our constituents. As an organization we are definitely in favor of state and federal funding to aid the mission of public health. We stand ready to support public health efforts in the State of Nevada to establish long term funding for all of our programs.

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