

Quarterly Report to the Nevada State Board of Health

Reporting Period: Q2 April to June 2026

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Executive Summary

This quarterly report summarizes the key activities, accomplishments, performance metrics, challenges, and significant events of Northern Nevada Public Health (NNPH) for April–June 2026. The report is organized by division and highlights cross-divisional collaboration, interagency coordination, and major public health impacts. Information is based on District Board of Health meetings and associated staff reports for the reporting period.

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Administration & Strategic Planning

Key Activities & Accomplishments

- Advanced development of the NNPH Strategic Plan and Workforce Development Plan, including program-level workshops and integration of organizational culture priorities and outcomes.
- Continued implementation of the 2025 BARHII health-equity priorities, moving from assessment to implementation and developing a standardized approach for incorporating community benefit into future funding/RFP decisions.
- Advanced the Community Health Assessment (CHA) toward publication, with work underway on an interactive community health dashboard and selection of shared indicators for the next four years of community health improvement work.
- Completed the new Tuberculosis Clinic, including transition of staff and patients to the new facility; the official ribbon-cutting was held on April 23.
- Supported multiple major public health communications initiatives, including vaccination, WIC, sexual health, animal-bite safety, air quality, and emergency preparedness messaging.

Key Lessons Learned

- Ongoing need for clear, consistent communication during periods of policy change (e.g., immunization requirements, WIC updates).
- Importance of cross-sector partnerships for addressing complex public health challenges.

Significant Events & Interagency Coordination

- **Health Heroes recognized this quarter were formally acknowledged at the District Board of Health meeting, with certificates delivered to each honoree as part of NNPH's effort to highlight staff.**
- **Participated in the Family Health Festival, reaching over 400 attendees with 43 partner organizations.**
- **Held ribbon-cutting events for the opening of our brand-new Tuberculosis Clinic, as well as our new Air Quality Monitoring Station in Verdi.**
- **Modernization of the 9th Street offices is moving forward; construction is ongoing.**
- **Strengthened relationships with local government, healthcare, academic, faith-based, and regional partners, including UNR, REMSA, Nevada Interfaith Association, and other organizations.**

Priorities for Next Quarter (Q3 2026)

- Transition from CHA to Community Health Improvement Plan (CHIP) development.
- Continue implementation of BARHII action items and workforce development initiatives.

- Continued need to navigate rapidly changing federal public health policies, particularly vaccination guidance, while maintaining consistent local messaging.
- State Public Health Funds supported significant staffing and one-time purchases, but the initial two-year funding round concludes on June 30, creating a need to monitor future funding stability.

Conclusion

- NNPH sustained core regulatory functions, advanced equity-centered planning, and strengthened regional partnerships during Q2 2026.
 - The agency remains committed to measurable public health outcomes for Northern Nevada.
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Environmental Health Division

Key Activities & Accomplishments

- Processed a record number of commercial plan reviews (338 new reviews YTD; 753 total reviews).
- Conducted 807 inspections in May alone, including food, pools/spas, and public accommodations.
- Completed 262 pool inspections in May and continued working with pool operators to ensure appropriate lifeguard staffing and certification.
- Continued residential well PFAS sampling.
- Continued modernization of septic/well permitting and inspection processes through Accela, including digital inspection forms and standardized plan-review responses.

Notable Trends & Performance Metrics

- 753 commercial plan submittals were received from April-May, with 1,021 total reviews conducted.
- 96% of plan reviews met the regional performance goal.
- Average first-review turnaround was six days, while revision reviews averaged five days.
- Residential/septic plans increased approximately 12% over 2025, with 367 plans received and 387 septic/well inspections completed through May.

Challenges & Significant Events

- Commercial development activity remains elevated, with commercial plan reviews increasing substantially compared with the prior year.
- Several food establishments required enforcement action during Q2, including temporary permit suspensions for repeat critical violations involving cross-contamination, date marking and food-storage issues.
- Vector program staffing required seasonal recruitment, with a fourth public-service intern added to support mosquito-season operations.
- Residential septic/well workload continues to increase while managing staffing limitations.

Cross-Divisional & Interagency Coordination

- Coordinated with Washoe County Community Services Department and Technology Services on permitting workflows and Accela improvements.
- Worked with Carson City Health and Human Services and the Nevada State Health Authority on emerging graywater/stormwater technology and regulatory considerations.
- Coordinated with Placer County on the CalNeva/Crystal Bay development because infrastructure crosses the Nevada-California state line and facilities will require permits in both states.
- Continued coordination with Reno Business Licensing to streamline business licensing and EHS permitting workflows.

Population Health Division

Key Activities & Accomplishments

- Continued disease surveillance, outbreak investigation, public health preparedness, EMS oversight, chronic disease prevention, and vital statistics activities.
- Launched a new online animal-bite reporting portal, improving reporting access and allowing Epidemiology to monitor live data and develop new response metrics.
- Conducted extensive preparedness exercises, including the Bitter Almond Breakdown hazardous-materials exercise, COOP tabletop exercise, and other healthcare preparedness activities.
- Advanced the EMS Cardiac Arrest Registry Dashboard for Enhanced Survival, currently in validation, to improve monitoring of out-of-hospital cardiac arrest.
- Continued development of the amended EMS franchise agreement and regional behavioral-health response policy.
- Advanced chronic disease and injury prevention partnerships, including brain-health collaboration with the Alzheimer's Association.

Notable Trends & Performance Metrics

- 2026 pertussis cases had already reached 84% of the total number reported in 2025, prompting continued surveillance and public/provider communication.
- March produced 554 positive laboratory reports, with 82% resulting in a confirmed, probable or suspect case; April had 253 positive labs, with 59% resulting in a case classification.
- EMS response performance remained strong overall, with FY2026-to-date Priority 1 compliance at 91% in Zone A and 93% across Zones B, C and D.

Challenges & Significant Events

- Communicable disease activity remained dynamic, including pertussis increases, the first confirmed local mpox case since 2023, and gastrointestinal outbreaks involving salmonellosis and cryptosporidiosis.
- Regional preparedness planning continues to address gaps, including burn-care capacity.
- EMS oversight continues to address utilization, behavioral-health calls and data-sharing needs.
- The division continues work toward Project Public Health Ready recognition and strengthening preparedness capabilities.

Cross-Divisional & Interagency Coordination

- HPP, EMS and Epidemiology staff continued biweekly coordination with hospitals, schools, state partners and community stakeholders on outbreak communications, response triggers and infectious-disease planning.

- Continued collaboration with REMSA Health on the amended ambulance franchise agreement and regional EMS operations.
 - Coordinated with Nevada DPBH on EMS/cardiovascular data sharing to strengthen cardiac-arrest and stroke-care quality improvement.
 - Healthcare preparedness partners – including hospitals, EMS, fire agencies and transportation partners – participated in regional exercises and planning.
 - Continued coordination with Washoe County School District through emergency operations plan reviews and infectious-disease preparedness activities.
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Community & Clinical Services

Key Activities & Accomplishments

- Continued providing immunization, TB, sexual/reproductive health, WIC, maternal/child health and community health worker services despite significant changes in federal vaccine policy.
- NNPH vaccination services remained an important access point for uninsured and underinsured residents, including children eligible for VFC.
- Completed approximately \$75,000 in ARPA-funded clinic-room renovations, modernizing rooms and improving functionality, privacy, and storage without disrupting clinic operations.
- Expanded WIC outreach through a targeted media campaign and new community partnerships.
- Community Health Workers provided navigation services to 83 clients in May, including assistance with insurance, primary care, PrEP, housing, transportation, and food.
- Began preparing to offer self-collected HPV testing as an additional cervical cancer screening option.

Challenges & Significant Events

- Rapid and evolving federal vaccine-policy changes created continued uncertainty for providers and families, requiring local interpretation and consistent messaging while Nevada school-entry requirements remained unchanged.
- COVID-19 vaccine availability remained constrained in some settings, particularly for people without primary care access.
- Bicillin shortages required the sexual health clinic to prioritize treatment for pregnant patients and identify alternatives for other patients.

Notable Trends & Metrics

- CCHS provided 3,647 visits across programs in May, compared with 3,461 in May 2025.
- WIC enrollment increased from 3,461 participants in May 2025 to 3,647 in May 2026.
- The WIC media campaign generated approximately 83,000 English-ad views and 61,000 Spanish-ad views, with 612 and 437 landing-page interactions; staff reported an increase in applications.
- TB staff were managing approximately 26 clients for latent TB infection, with three clients initiating treatment in May.
- The Childhood Lead Poisoning Prevention program was managing 22 open cases involving children under age six.

Cross-Divisional & Interagency Coordination

- CCHS coordinated with the Nevada State Office of State Epidemiology, CDC, state WIC program and healthcare providers on changing vaccination guidance and vaccine access.
- Continued collaboration with Washoe County Community Services Department on clinic renovations.

- Participated in the Northern Nevada Maternal and Child Health Coalition and coordinated with community organizations on maternal/child health initiatives.
 - CHWs continued partnerships with community organizations and resource fairs to reach immigrant families, unhoused residents, LGBTQIA+ individuals, and other high-need populations.
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Air Quality Management

Key Activities & Accomplishments

- Opened a new ambient air monitoring station in Verdi, expanding near-real-time monitoring in southwestern Washoe County and providing localized data to support wildfire smoke forecasting.
- Completed the annual Air Quality Trends Report, documenting NAAQS attainment status, exceedances, and 10-year trends for criteria pollutants.
- Secured \$24,500 in additional Clean Air Act Section 103 funding, including replacement of the county's PM_{2.5} carbon speciation sampler—the only site of its kind in Nevada.
- Maintained strong permitting performance, with 99% of plan reviews completed within timeframes.
- Conducted extensive compliance work, including stationary-source, dust-control, wood-burning and asbestos inspections.

Notable Trends & Performance Metrics

- No PM₁₀ or PM_{2.5} NAAQS exceedances were recorded in March or April; one ozone exceedance occurred in May.
- Through May, AQMD had processed 68 Dust Control Permits covering 725 acres of disturbance.
- Staff processed 2,935 wood-burning device registrations, resulting in the removal of 15 uncertified devices.
- AQMD conducted 181 Permit to Operate inspections, 217 Dust Control inspections, and 84 asbestos notification inspections.
- AQMD responded to 119 complaints, with dust complaints representing the largest category.

Challenges & Significant Events

- Wildfire smoke remains a significant short-term air-quality concern for Washoe County, with the county's geography contributing to the trapping of imported smoke.
- Federal regulatory changes — including EPA actions involving greenhouse-gas regulation and fuel waivers — could affect the local regulatory environment and long-term air-quality planning.
- The American Lung Association's 2026 report highlighted short-term PM_{2.5} pollution as a particular concern for Washoe County, largely driven by wildfire smoke.

Cross-Divisional & Interagency Coordination

- Coordinated with EPA on monitoring, funding and regulatory requirements.
- Worked with Communications on Air Quality Awareness Week and public messaging surrounding the new Verdi monitoring station.
- Continued coordination with regional jurisdictions and partners on air monitoring, wildfire smoke and air-quality planning.

- Participated in state and federal discussions concerning changing air-quality regulations and fuel standards.
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