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DIRECTOR'S REPORT

CARSON CITY HEALTH & HUMAN SERVICES

June

2026

**Quarter 1 Updates
and Upcoming Events**

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Academic Health Department

Carson City Health and Human Services (CCHHS) is one step closer to becoming a designated academic health department! On May 7, 2026, the Carson City Board of Supervisors approved an agreement between the City and the University of Nevada, Reno to be identified as an academic health department. While CCHHS has been doing this work for several years, this agreement will formalize the designation. For this summer semester, CCHHS will host three graduate interns who will work with our Epidemiology, Chronic Disease, and Human Services Branches. CCHHS leadership is excited to provide opportunities to help develop and strengthen the future public health workforce.

CCHHS Workforce Development

On March 3rd, two Carson City Health and Human Services (CCHHS) staff members participated in the Public Health Career and Internship Fair hosted at the University of Nevada, Reno. This three-hour tabling event provided an opportunity to engage with students interested in public health professions and to promote CCHHS as a prospective employer.



During the event, staff shared information about introductory-level positions and available internships within the department. They also provided students with an overview of CCHHS Divisions, programs, and services, highlighting the advantages of working within a smaller local health department, including broader experience, closer collaboration, and opportunities for professional growth.

Overall, participation in the fair helped increase awareness of CCHHS's mission, services, and workforce opportunities among future public health professionals.

Human Services Team Growth

Human Services is excited to share news about the growth and development of our

team. With the addition of new hires and the promotion of existing staff, Human Services is a full team for the first time in two years!

We want to congratulate Shelby Davi on her well-earned promotion to Human Services Case Manager! Shelby has been with Health and Human Services since October 2024, starting as the Office Specialist running the front desk, assisting all our Branches with day-to-day needs, and making clients and customers feel welcome. She moved into the Human Services Community Health Worker position in December, and through dedication and hard work, was promoted to the Human Services Case Manager position in April 2026.

We would also like to welcome Samualla “Sammie” Pry and Susan “Susie” Stich to the team! Sammie has joined the team as the Human Services Social Worker, a position that has been vacant for over two years, and Susie joined our team in May as the new Human Services Community Health Worker. Both Sammie and Susie have many years of experience serving those in need and will bring that experience to the team. With the compassion, dedication, and experience of our team, we are ready to provide even better customer service and continue improving the quality of life of those we serve.

Environmental Health Improvements

Mosquito Control

In an effort to adapt to the changing landscapes in Carson City, CCHHS Environmental Health (EH) has contracted with a drone company to perform mosquito abatement activities for 2026. The reasons for the shift from a helicopter to a drone include cost savings, more precise treatments, more accessibility, and long-term program sustainability. The first drone



larvicide treatment took place on May 7th, with an additional treatment scheduled for the first week of June. Additionally, CCHHS is excited to announce the hiring of a Seasonal Vector Control Technician. The Seasonal Vector Control Technician will be dedicated to mosquito trapping and surveillance, as well as coordinating with the drone pilot for treatments. The combination of drone treatments and a dedicated vector technician will ensure a well-rounded program that prevents and protects Carson City residents and visitors from mosquito-borne diseases. Please do your part in preventing mosquito habitats and protecting yourselves.



MOSQUITO
PROTECTION

Spring is here, and summer is on the way. That means it is time to get ready for mosquito season in Carson City.

What You Can Do:

- ✓ Dump standing water weekly
- ✓ Use repellent with DEET
- ✓ Wear long sleeves and pants at dawn
- ✓ Check and repair window and door screens

GetHealthyCarsonCity.org 775-887-2190

The graphic features a close-up photograph of a mosquito on human skin. The text is overlaid on a dark blue background with white and light blue accents.

FDA Retail Program Standards

Carson City Health and Human Services Environmental Health Branch is currently enrolled and working towards meeting the Food and Drug Administration’s (FDA) Voluntary National Retail Food Regulatory Program Standards (Retail Program Standards). The Retail Program Standards serve as the touchstone or benchmark for maintaining a Regulatory Retail Food Program, such as the Environmental Health Food Program. These Standards provide a foundation for success and continual improvement to ensure the safety of every community. In March 2025, the EH Branch met the first of nine FDA Retail Program Standards: Standard 7 – Industry and Community Relations. Meeting the standard’s criteria triggered an audit in 2026, during which Washoe County confirmed that the standard was met. This standard focuses on outreach activities to solicit input, communicate sound public health food safety principles, and foster community initiatives to reduce foodborne illness risk factors. CCHHS met this standard by increasing communication with the public on food safety regarding recall notifications and

by launching a new environmental health newsletter that reviewed health and sanitation at temporary events. The EH Branch is excited for the opportunity to further improve and reach the FDA gold standard.

Whooping Cough Update

Increased Local and Statewide Pertussis Activity

Pertussis (whooping cough) is experiencing a cyclical increase nationwide. Potential contributing factors include declines in vaccination rates, waning vaccine-induced immunity, and possible changes in the bacterium itself. While vaccination remains effective at preventing severe disease, it does not always prevent infection. In October of 2025, the Nevada Division of Public and Behavioral Health (DPBH) released a technical bulletin noting an increase in pertussis activity in some parts of the state. Locally, Carson City had a relatively low incidence from 2018 to 2024, with zero to two cases reported annually. However, five cases were confirmed in 2025, and as of Mid-April 2026, seven cases have already been reported in Carson City.

Pertussis is a contagious respiratory illness caused by a bacterium that initially presents with cold-like symptoms in the first two weeks. If left untreated, this can progress to severe coughing fits that may or may not have the classic “whoop” sound and may lead to vomiting after coughing. Symptoms may last anywhere from two to six weeks. Identification can be challenging, as symptoms may resemble other circulating respiratory illnesses. Transmission is more likely in settings with prolonged close contact, such as schools, where a cluster of cases was identified in late March. This prompted the Epidemiology Branch to take quick action, in coordination with the Carson City School District, to disseminate letters to parents, along with fact sheets describing the signs and symptoms of pertussis and what to do if you become ill. The situation is ongoing, with continued monitoring for additional illnesses at the schools and in the surrounding community.

2025 Communicable Disease Summary

Overview

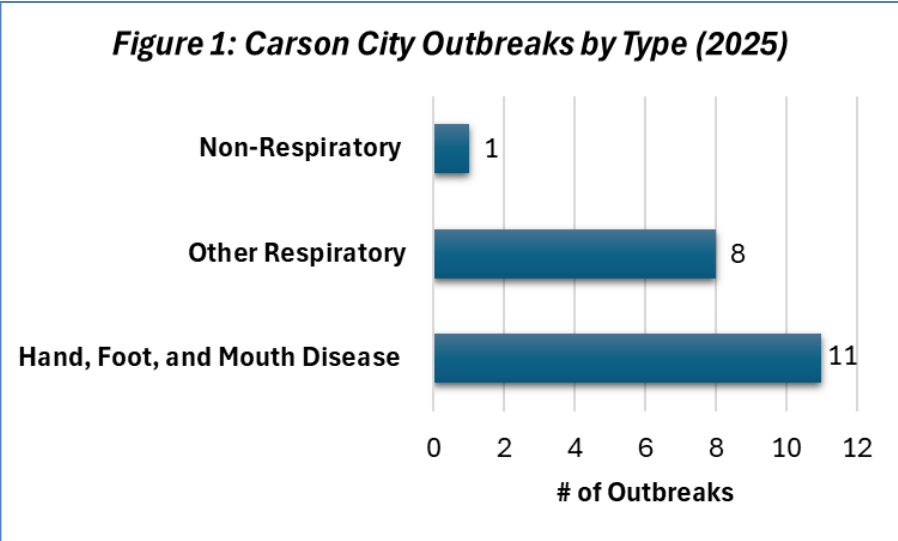
In 2025, the Epidemiology Branch investigated nearly 3,200 reports of close to 60

different reportable illnesses in Carson City. Of these, approximately 2,700 were classified as confirmed or probable cases based on national case definitions. Even reports that do not meet case criteria require follow-up, including medical record review, communication with healthcare providers, recommendations for testing, and, at times, direct outreach to patients. This work supports early identification of public health concerns and helps reduce the spread of illness in the community. The 2025 reportable disease data are preliminary and may change due to delays in reporting and data auditing.

Respiratory Illnesses

Respiratory illnesses, including influenza, COVID-19, and respiratory syncytial virus (RSV), continue to represent the largest overall disease burden in the community each year. While detailed seasonal trends are reported separately, these illnesses require ongoing monitoring and response.

In 2025, the Epidemiology Branch responded to 20 outbreaks, 19 of which were respiratory-related. Over half of these (11) were associated with hand, foot, and mouth disease, primarily in school and childcare settings (See Figure 1). These investigations required rapid coordination with affected facilities and implementation of infection prevention and control measures to reduce further spread within facilities and the broader community.

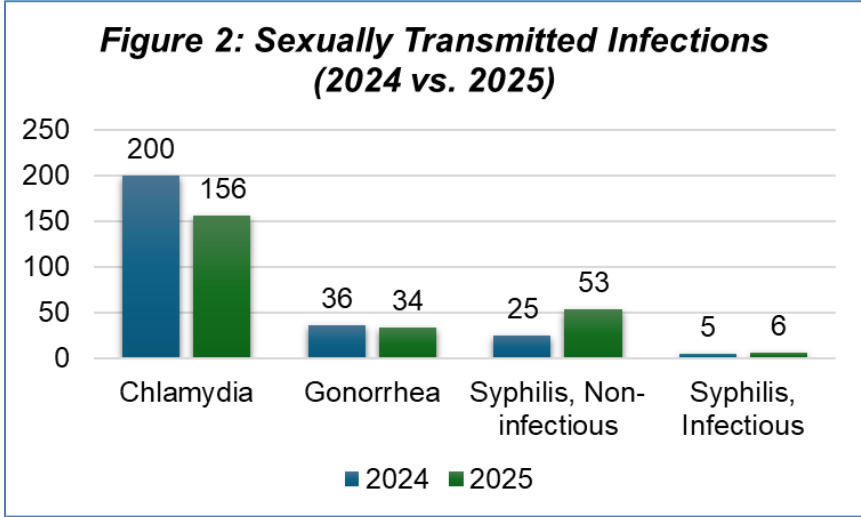


The Branch also investigated five pertussis cases in 2025, an increase from one case in 2024, including one identified outbreak, reflecting broader increases in pertussis activity observed across Nevada. These investigations required timely follow-up, contact identification, and guidance to reduce further transmission.

Sexually Transmitted Infections

Similar to state and national trends, the three most common sexually transmitted infections (STIs) in Carson City were chlamydia, gonorrhea, and syphilis. Many STIs have mild to no symptoms, which can create barriers to seeking treatment and leave infections undiagnosed for an extended time.

In 2025, Carson City received 249 reports of confirmed STIs, a decrease from 266 in 2024. This decrease was observed in both chlamydia and gonorrhea cases, but there was an increase in reports of infectious and non-infectious syphilis (See Figure 2). Infectious syphilis



includes early, primary, and secondary infections, which are the earlier stages of infection and are the most contagious. Non-infectious syphilis includes both latent and unknown stages of syphilis and cannot spread person to person; however, it can lead to serious health consequences if left untreated.

Increased detection of syphilis in Carson City may be influenced by screening practices in higher-risk environments, including correctional facilities.

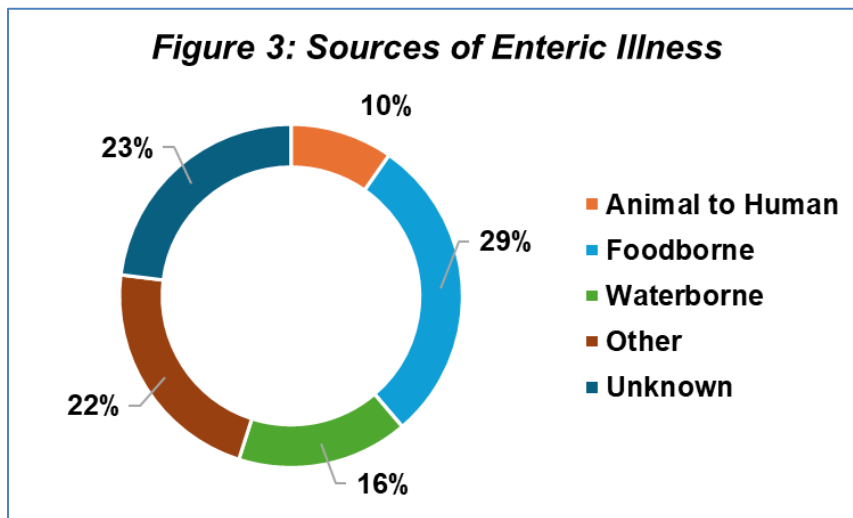
The burden of STIs was highest among adolescents and young adults in 2025. Nearly 3 out of every 10 (31%) diagnoses were among individuals aged 19-24. Factors that may contribute to the burden among this age group include having multiple partners, facing stigma, social behaviors, and infections where symptoms may be mild or not present at all. During investigations, the Epidemiology Branch works to address these factors through education, partner services to connect contacts to care, and, if necessary, linkages to treatment. Through efforts by local providers and the Epidemiology Branch, 97% of diagnosed STIs among Carson City residents were appropriately treated in 2025, thus reducing complications of untreated infections and transmission in the broader community.

Enteric & Foodborne Illnesses

Enteric illnesses primarily infect the gastrointestinal (GI) tract and are commonly caused by bacteria, viruses, or parasites. Common modes of transmission for these illnesses include contaminated water or food, person-to-person spread, and contact with contaminated surfaces.

In 2025, the Epidemiology Branch investigated 31 enteric illness cases. Over one third (11) of these were caused by *Campylobacter*, with nearly another third (9) caused by Norovirus. The remaining cases (11) were caused by *Salmonella*, *Cryptosporidium*, Shiga-toxin-producing *E. coli*, and non-pestis *Yersinia*.

During investigations, staff collect information regarding recent activities, food products consumed, and contact with animals that may carry different pathogens to determine a likely source of infection. Among cases with complete data, nearly 3 out of every 10 (29%) reported foodborne exposure that could have caused their illness, followed by almost 2 out of every 10 (16%) noting a



waterborne exposure, and 1 out of every 10 (10%) noting an animal exposure (See Figure 3). During investigations, the Epidemiology Branch provides recommendations to reduce transmission to others, including, but not limited to, proper hand hygiene, safe food handling, safe water practices, and environmental hygiene.

In addition to responding to laboratory-confirmed cases, the Epidemiology Branch serves as the intake point for foodborne-illness complaints in Carson City and other counties in the surveillance area. In 2025, the branch responded to 17 foodborne-illness complaints from community members involving licensed Carson City establishments. Investigations include obtaining a detailed 3-day food history to identify any other likely sources of infection, whether someone has sought medical care for their illness, and whether others were sick after eating at the same establishment. Reports are shared with the Environmental Health Branch to ensure

that appropriate field follow-up is conducted when necessary.

Surveillance from multiple sources, including both laboratory-confirmed cases and foodborne illness complaints, helps the Epidemiology Branch obtain a more complete picture of enteric illness in the community. This helps to improve the detection of outbreaks in the community and ensure timely intervention to reduce the spread and impact of illness.

Latent Tuberculosis Infections

Latent Tuberculosis Infection (LTBI) became reportable in Nevada in late 2023 as part of broader efforts to reduce tuberculosis through expanded testing and treatment. LTBI occurs when an individual is infected with tuberculosis bacteria but does not have symptoms and cannot spread the infection to others; however, without treatment, it can progress to active disease.

In 2025, the Epidemiology Branch investigated 75 cases of confirmed LTBI in Carson City. Many of these cases were identified through routine screening, including employment, immigration, and institutional settings. Increased detection of LTBI in Carson City may be influenced by screening practices in higher-risk settings, such as correctional facilities. During investigations, the Epidemiology Branch provides education on LTBI and connects individuals to care when treatment is desired. Among individuals successfully contacted, over 4 out of every 10 (43%) initiated treatment. Treating LTBI reduces the risk of progression to active tuberculosis, helping prevent future cases and protect the broader community, especially in high-risk settings.

Notable Response Activity

In 2025, the Epidemiology Branch was notified of a resident in the surveillance area who became ill with yellow fever after traveling internationally. Yellow Fever is not endemic to the United States due to the lack of warm, humid, and tropical environments necessary to support the mosquito population that spreads the virus. The Epidemiology Branch collaborated with federal partners, the resident, and the Clinical Services Branch to obtain a serum donation to improve diagnostic tools for Yellow Fever, which may decrease the time to detect and respond to future cases.

If you have any questions about this report or require the report to be presented in a different format, please reach out to us at:

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- Phone: 775-887-2190
- In-Person: 900 E. Long Street, along JAC bus Routes 1 and 2A at Long and Roop at Health and Human Services