

## **Quarterly Report to the Nevada State Board of Health**

**Reporting Period:** Q1 January to March 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 the period from January to March 2026. The report is organized by division and highlights cross-divisional collaboration, interagency coordination, and major public health impacts. The information herein 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

- Community Health Assessment (CHA): NNPH, in partnership with Renown Health, conducted 15 focus groups and received over 600 survey responses, reporting results at a public forum in January 2026.
  - The CHA identified eight priority findings: mental health; access to health services; economic stability (appearing for the first time); health risk behaviors and early detection; violence prevention and crime; environmental sustainability; substance abuse; and maternal and child health.
- The Communications Team led outreach efforts for multiple influenza clinics, a pertussis outbreak, and worked to explain how announced inspections will work with NNPH's foodborne safety program. In addition, the team assisted with:
  - The suicide prevention multimedia campaign, an effort around safe firearm storage.
  - The Swoon Bridal donation recognition, which included a community partnership element with public-facing messaging around menstrual health access.
- Workforce Development: The 2025 PH WINS Survey was completed, achieving a sufficient response rate for nationally comparable data.
  - Results indicated a stable workforce with over 90% full-time staff and strong overall job satisfaction, while identifying workload strain and burnout among supervisory staff as key challenges requiring attention.
- BARHII Assessment: The Bay Area Regional Health Inequities Initiative (BARHII) assessment was conducted in 2025 and presented to the Board in March 2026.
  - Four primary themes emerged: strengthening data-driven decision-making; addressing social determinants of health; modernizing hiring practices; and building workforce capacity through training and partnerships.
- 360 Feedback Survey: The Board approved the launch of the 2026 District Health Officer 360 feedback survey, adding a fourth respondent group – NNPH supervisory staff – to improve the breadth and representativeness of the evaluation.

## Key Lessons Learned

- Workforce development planning must integrate multiple assessment tools – including BARHII, PH WINS, and external consultant findings – in a coordinated, non-duplicative manner to drive meaningful organizational improvement.
- There was a lot of misinformation from what the public perceived for announced restaurant inspections, but we think through repetitive proactive communication we were able to set the record straight.

## Significant Events & Interagency Coordination

- **NNPH recognized five staff members for combined service totaling more than 97 years, and five staff members were honored as Health Heroes for demonstrating core organizational values.**
- **A new APRN, Kathleen Patterson, was hired for the Family Planning Sexual Health Clinic, expanding access to essential sexual and reproductive health services at a critical time of limited coverage.**

## Priorities for Next Quarter (Q2 2026)

- Finalize and launch program-level workforce development workshops and culture action plans informed by PH WINS and BARHII findings.
- Complete the District Health Officer annual evaluation using 360 feedback survey results.

## Conclusion

- Quarter One demonstrated NNPH's capacity to sustain core regulatory functions, deliver timely surveillance, and advance equity-centered planning while coordinating across divisions and with regional partners.
  - I appreciate the Nevada State Board of Health's continued support and look forward to reporting on our progress, as we translate strategic planning into measurable public health outcomes for Northern Nevada.
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## Environmental Health Division

### **Key Activities & Accomplishments**

- EHS continued to deliver high-quality inspections and maintained 92–98% improvement in commercial plan review performance, consistently meeting the 14-day review goal.
- A new PFAS Sampling Grant (\$227,826.09 direct; \$262,000 total) was executed to provide free well water testing to 300 residents, helping identify potential emerging contaminants in local aquifers in partnership with the Nevada Division of Environmental Protection (NDEP).

### **Notable Trends & Performance Metrics**

- EHS maintained strong regulatory performance across food safety, safe drinking water, and environmental protection programs.
- A Notice of Violation (Case No. 1603, AQMV26-0002) was upheld against StoneHaven Construction & Development with a \$500 administrative penalty for commencing dust-generating activity without a Dust Control Permit.

### **Challenges & Significant Events**

- A variance (Case #H26-0001VARI) to allow a reduced lot size for a second parcel map was reviewed and upheld by the Board following a Sewage, Wastewater & Sanitation Hearing Board decision.

### **Cross-Divisional & Interagency Coordination**

- EHS collaborated with NDEP on the PFAS sampling program, with data to inform regional aquifer protection planning.
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## Population Health Division

### **Key Activities & Accomplishments**

- Pertussis Surveillance: Washoe County experienced a significant rise in pertussis (whooping cough) cases from 8 cases in 2024 to 40 cases in 2025.
- Measles Response: NNPH rapidly identified and responded to the region's first reported measles case on Christmas Day, with Northern Nevada Medical Center playing a key role in early detection.
- Suicide Prevention: The Washoe Suicide Prevention Alliance continued its community-based, multi-sector approach, with efforts to expand participation.
- Chronic Disease & Injury Data Dashboard: NNPH launched a new interactive chronic disease and injury data dashboard, transitioning from a static 2009 report to a publicly accessible, regularly updated platform organized into six sections.

### **Notable Trends & Performance Metrics**

- The percentage of middle and high school students purchasing electronic vape products directly from retailers has declined following the 2019 law prohibiting sales to individuals under age 21.
- REMSA Health met or exceeded franchise response standards for all Priority 1 calls across all service zones for January-March 2026, with total call volumes of 8,619 and 8,048 respectively.

### **Challenges & Significant Events**

- Pertussis volume is approaching the practical limits of surveillance and contact tracing capacity – not due to performance failures, but due to volume and workforce constraints. Sustaining disease surveillance capacity remains a top operational priority.
- The City of Sparks, through Mayor Ed Lawson, formally requested reconsideration of the REMSA franchise contract at the March 26 Board meeting, citing concerns about ambulance service equity and a closed fire station.

### **Cross-Divisional & Interagency Coordination**

- The REMSA Health Franchise Compliance Report reflected 52 of 54 metrics fully met (96% overall compliance), and two partially met items related to Emergency Medical Determinant code review requirements. The REMSA Response Zone Map was reviewed and approved with no zone changes.

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## Community & Clinical Services

### **Key Activities & Accomplishments**

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- A new APRN joined the Family Planning Sexual Health Clinic, expanding access to reproductive health services after a period of limited coverage.
- Swoon Bridal donated 160 tampon kits and 65 pad kits (estimated value \$2,000) to CCHS for community distribution, accepted unanimously by the Board.
- The Board proclaimed April 6–12, 2026, as National Public Health Week, with NNPH partnering with the School of Public Health to promote public health coordination and collaboration.

## **Notable Trends & Metrics**

- The TB clinic, funded through ARPA, was on track to open by April 1, 2026, representing a significant infrastructure investment in long-term infection control and operational readiness.
- The WIC and TB Clinic programs recognized staff with a combined 60 years of service, reflecting deep institutional knowledge within CCHS.

## **Cross-Divisional & Interagency Coordination**

- CCHS coordinated with epidemiology and healthcare partners on the measles response, including contact tracing and post-exposure prophylaxis administration.
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## Air Quality Management

### Key Activities & Accomplishments

- AQM continued high-quality plan review performance, maintaining 99% on-time completion.
- NNPH advocacy contributed to a \$2.15 million grant for hybrid buses, supporting clean transit in the region.
- The EPA Air Pollution Control Program Grant (\$200,000, retroactive to October 1, 2025 through September 30, 2026) was approved by the Board.

### Notable Trends & Performance Metrics

- AQM maintained strong permitting and compliance outputs throughout the quarter.
- A Business Impact Statement was adopted finding that proposed revisions to Air Quality Management Regulations Part 040.033 (Food Establishments) do not impose a direct and significant economic burden on businesses.

### Challenges & Significant Events

- States and groups continued to urge the DC Circuit to deny EPA's motion to vacate the 2024 PM2.5 NAAQS, a regulatory development being monitored by AQM.

### Cross-Divisional & Interagency Coordination

- AQM coordinated with regional transit partners on clean transportation advocacy, demonstrating NNPH's role as a community health convener beyond traditional regulatory functions.
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