

 PHAB



DIRECTOR'S REPORT

CARSON CITY HEALTH & HUMAN SERVICES

MARCH 6,
2026

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Prepared in collaboration with CCHHS staff

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CARSON CITY HEALTH & HUMAN SERVICES

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Announcements, Highlights, and Successes

Agency Retirements: Judy Barlow and Roni Galas

Judy Barlow has been a public health nurse in the Carson City Health and Human Services (CCHHS) Clinic Services Department for 15 years and a registered nurse for 35 years. She has seen many changes over the years and has been dedicated and hardworking. Judy has made an impact on everyone she has worked with or cared for during her time in the Clinic. She is an expert in her field. She had been assigned multiple extra duties, including staff training, medical record super user, lab coordinator, and pharmaceutical tracking. If there was a question about anything pertaining to the Clinic, Judy probably knew the answer. We are grateful for her kindness and expertise. She will truly be missed but leaves behind a legacy to be proud of and some hard shoes to fill. We wish Judy happiness, health, and new adventures in the next chapter!

Veronica (Roni) Galas retired after many years of dedicated service to CCHHS. She began her career with CCHHS as a clinic nurse and went on to serve for many years as the Clinic Manager before transitioning into her most recent role as a Public Health Educator for the Adolescent Health Education Program. In addition, Roni served as the agency's HIPAA Officer, providing trusted guidance and oversight. Throughout her career, Roni demonstrated a deep commitment not only to CCHHS but also to the broader community, generously giving her time to community service efforts outside of work. We thank Roni for her lasting contributions and wish her all the best in her well-earned retirement.

Bryan Sorenson Completes Pool Inspector Certification

Certified Pool and Spa Operator is a globally recognized certification. It's awarded after a two-day class, 20 hours of coursework, and an exam. CCHHS Environmental Health Branch uses the certification to oversee public bathing facilities, including pools, spas, and splash pads in Carson City and Douglas County. Bryan receiving this certification helps to ensure CCHHS has the capacity to oversee public bathing facilities are in compliance with pool chemistry, circulation rates, emergency signage, safety mechanisms, restroom requirements, and several additional health requirements associated with bodies of water.

Abigail MacLean Moves to Public Health Program Specialist

Abigail has been at CCHHS since October 2024 as an Administrative Assistant in Environmental Health. At the end of 2025, Abigail moved to a Public Health Program Specialist position in Public Health Preparedness. She is excited about educating and providing resources to the public so they are well prepared for emergencies. She is also looking forward to being involved in emergency exercises, learning from the team, which has a wealth of knowledge, and collaborating with partners to create a prepared, empowered community.

Quality Improvement Plan Accepted by Public Health Accreditation Board (PHAB)

In December, CCHHS submitted its Quality Improvement Plan to PHAB with its annual report. PHAB reported back to CCHHS that the plan satisfied all standards and measures of

quality improvement. The plan, developed by a committee of CCHHS staff, outlines several goals and objectives for the agency related to maintaining a culture of continuous quality improvement. The plan's objectives relate to ensuring staff are aware of quality improvement and have the tools necessary to facilitate and document change initiatives.

Upcoming Job Fair

Mark your calendars for March 27, 2026. CCHHS will be hosting a Job Fair from 3:00 PM to 5:00 PM at the Carson City Community Center. This event is designed to connect individuals with exciting career opportunities that align with their skills and interests. There will be opportunities to speak directly with employers, apply to positions, and connect with additional employment resources needed to maintain or obtain a job.



The poster features a dark blue background with a subtle pattern of light blue dots. At the top right is the Carson City Health & Human Services logo. The text is centered and reads: 'Carson City Health & Human Services' in white, followed by 'JOB FAIR' in large white and light blue letters. Below that, it says 'Come to our job fair and find exciting career opportunities that align with your skills and interests.' in white. The date and time 'MARCH 27, 2026 3:00 - 5:00 PM' are in light blue. At the bottom, the location 'CARSON CITY COMMUNITY CENTER 851 E. Williams Street, Carson City, Nevada 89701' is in light blue.

 775-887-2190

 gethealthycarsoncity.org

Connecting Community to Services

Point-in-Time (PIT) Count & Resource Fair

The Point-in-Time (PIT) Count is a nationwide, single-night census of individuals and families experiencing homelessness mandated by the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD). The count provides a snapshot of sheltered and unsheltered homelessness; it helps communities understand trends and needs, measure progress, and allocate resources. It is a crucial tool to help us understand the scope and trends of homelessness in our community and throughout Nevada.

Carson City is part of the Rural Nevada Continuum of Care (RNCoC), and in collaboration with the Southern and Northern Nevada Continuums of Care, the PIT count is a coordinated statewide effort conducted simultaneously throughout Nevada. This year's PIT count took place on Thursday, January 29, 2026.

The Point-in-Time Count is important for us to be able to collect accurate data to reflect not only the number of people experiencing homelessness in our community, but also important characteristics of our homeless population. Knowing whether someone is a senior or an unaccompanied youth; if we have a high percentage of Veterans or a particular group experiencing homelessness, it can help us determine what programs and services are most needed in our community.

Local results not only help communities understand trends and needs, but this information also influences policymakers when deciding how to allocate state and federal funding. An accurate count can lead to more funding for programs in our community, resulting in better outcomes for those we serve and our community as a whole!

To increase engagement, Carson City Health and Human Services (CCHHS) hosts a resource fair on the same day as the PIT Count. The resource fair is important because the event helps connect vulnerable individuals to needed services and resources, but it also encourages our unhoused neighbors to engage in the PIT count to ensure we are gathering the most accurate data possible for our community. An inaccurate count can understate need and reduce the resources available to local communities, leaving us unprepared to address and meet these needs. Undercounting can result in reduced housing dollars, fewer supportive services, and a diminished ability to demonstrate need in funding competitions.





Community participation is essential in ensuring a complete and accurate count. This could not have happened without the support of the community members and partners participating in the PIT street count and resource fair! These champions include: Advocates to End Domestic Violence, Calvary Chapel, Carson City Health and Human Services Clinic, Carson City Host Lions Club, Carson City School District - McKinney-Vento, Carson City Sheriff's Office, Carson Animal Services Initiative (CASI), EMPOWERED, Feeding Pets of the Homeless, Friends In Service Helping (FISH), Karma Box, Nevada Department of Human Services, Nevada Urban Indians, Night Off the Streets (NOTS), Northern Nevada Dream Center,

Ron Wood Family Resource Center, Rural Center for Independent Living, Silver State Salon & Spa, Spirit of Hope, St. Vincent de Paul Society, St. Teresa of Avila Conference, The Bus Boy Mobile Cuisine, U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs Healthcare for Homeless Veterans Outreach Team, WIC- Women, Infants, and Children, and other community members and partners.

Women, Infants, & Children (WIC)

Like many other programs, the Women, Infants, and Children (WIC) program was significantly impacted by the government shutdown and was at immediate risk of clinic closures, staff layoffs, and suspension of benefits to program participants. During this time, frequent communications were received from the State WIC office providing updates on the current funding capacity and estimates of how long clinics could remain open to provide benefits, never extending longer than a week or two, and often identifying funding for benefits but not keeping the staff working to issue them.

Through this time of uncertainty, CCHHS WIC staff worked diligently to not only continue to serve participants already scheduled but to move up appointments for as many participants as possible before the clinic was scheduled to close its doors. The WIC staff took on increased workloads while dealing with growing stress and concern.

At the time of the government shutdown, 550 individuals (129 women, 123 infants, and 298 children) were enrolled in the WIC program through Carson City Health and Human Services. Had the CCHHS WIC Clinics faced closure, those 550 individuals would not only have been without their food benefits, causing increased food insecurities and financial strain, they would have also lost access to essential services, including nutrition education and breastfeeding support provided by staff.

With the opening of the federal government, and continued funding, WIC staff continue to serve Carson City participants. Recently the national WIC program made changes to the food package to better meet the needs of participants. These changes provide a wider variety

of foods to participants that align with the latest nutritional science and allow WIC staff to tailor food packages to accommodate participants' special dietary needs, address key nutritional needs to support healthy dietary patterns, and accommodate personal and cultural food preferences. With higher monthly amounts for fruits and veggies, more options for grains and milk substitutes, and canned fish available to more participants, the WIC team continues to meet participant needs and improve the health of our community!

Carson City Disease Surveillance

2025 Outbreaks

For the calendar year of 2025, CCHHS's Epidemiology branch monitored 20 outbreaks in Carson City. Most of the outbreaks (19) were respiratory related (COVID; Influenza; RSV; Hand, Foot, Mouth; and Pertussis) and one (1) was gastrointestinal (GI) related. All the outbreaks monitored were within congregate settings such as day cares, schools and licensed health care facilities. Eleven (11) of the respiratory outbreaks were caused by Hand, Foot, and Mouth (HFM). These HFM outbreaks occurred during late spring and impacted both schools and day cares.

2026 Respiratory Season (Influenza, COVID, Respiratory Syncytial Virus (RSV))

Respiratory surveillance season started on Morbidity Mortality Weekly Report (MMWR) week 40 (September 28, 2025) and continues through MMWR week 20 (May 16, 2026). At the beginning of the season Carson City experienced typical early season trends, comparable to previous respiratory seasons. However, in late December, Carson City experienced a sharp increase in both inpatient (hospitalizations) and outpatient visits (non-hospitalizations) for respiratory conditions. This increase was three (3) times higher than previous years at the same time. This is most likely due to the Influenza A subtype K that is currently circulating. This increase has been seen regionally and at a national level.

Vaccine Updates

Childhood and Adolescent Immunization Schedule Changes

The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) recently made recommendations to modify the childhood immunization schedule. Carson City Health and Human Services is engaged in discussions with other local public health agencies across the State and the Nevada Division of Public and Behavioral Health to assess potential impacts on clinic operations, ensure continued access to vaccines for residents, and provide resources for local schools and childcare facilities to maintain compliance with Nevada immunization requirements.

Vaccine Preventable Diseases (VPD)

Measles

Measles in the Americas is a concern due to high levels of reported cases. At the end of 2025, our public health partners to the north reported a measles case. According to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC), for the full year of 2025, a total of 2,242 confirmed measles cases were reported in the United States. Among these, 2,217 measles cases were reported by 45 jurisdictions: Alabama, Alaska, Arizona, Arkansas, California, Colorado, Connecticut, Florida, Georgia, Hawaii, Idaho, Illinois, Indiana, Iowa, Kansas, Kentucky, Louisiana, Maryland, Michigan, Minnesota, Missouri, Montana, Nebraska, Nevada, New Jersey, New Mexico, New York City, New York State, North Carolina, North Dakota, Ohio, Oklahoma, Oregon, Pennsylvania, Rhode Island, South Carolina, South Dakota, Tennessee, Texas, Utah, Vermont, Virginia, Washington, Wisconsin, and Wyoming. A total of 25 measles cases were reported among international visitors to the United States.

There have been 49 measles outbreaks reported across the Nation in 2025, and 89% of confirmed cases (1,994 of 2,242) are outbreak-associated. For comparison, 16 outbreaks were reported during 2024, and 69% of cases (198 of 285) were outbreak-associated. CCHHS’s Epidemiology branch continues to monitor measles cases and outbreaks in surrounding communities and has prepared Epidemiology branch staff via internal trainings and regular updates on the ongoing measles situation.

Pertussis

According to the CDC, reports of pertussis cases were lower than usual during and immediately following the COVID-19 pandemic. However, the United States has returned to pre-pandemic patterns where more than 10,000 cases are typically reported each year. It is likely that mitigation measures used during the pandemic (e.g., masking, remote learning, staying home when ill) lowered transmission of pertussis.

In Carson City and the surrounding jurisdictions, there has been an increase in reported pertussis cases in 2025 compared to previous years. From 2012 to 2025, Carson City had an average of 1.2 reported cases per year. Since 2024, Carson City has seen a fivefold increase (see Figure 1). This is due to some household clusters and cases linked to a local health care facility. Carson City has not reported this many cases since the childcare facility outbreak in 2017. Both 2017 and 2025 are reporting years that had increased reported cases due to the association with congregate setting outbreaks.

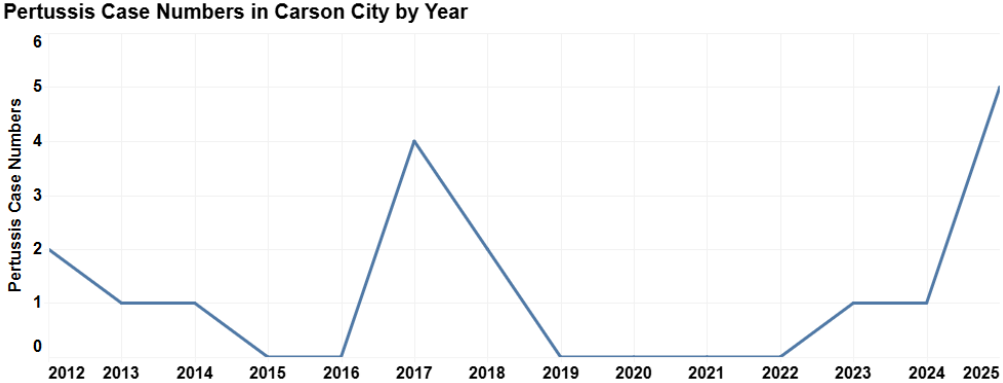


Figure 1. Pertussis cases in Carson City from 2012-2025

Agency Changes & Improvements

Environmental Health

This last year was a successful one for the Environmental Health branch. While several staff changes occurred, this was driven by opportunities for professional development and focusing on improving staff's skill sets. In May of 2025, CCHHS welcomed Kandis Harvey back, but in a new role as the Branch Manager. Having a dedicated, familiar individual in this role has enabled the Branch to build a strong foundation and provide a structured path forward. In December 2025, Kandis graduated from the National Association of Counties (NACo) Professional Development Academy with a Master Certificate in Leadership. This has provided Kandis with the groundwork to build a sustainable, efficient, and forward-thinking team.

Another success in 2025 for this Branch was the accomplishment of three of the five Environmental Health Specialists passing their National Registered Environmental Health Specialist/Registered Sanitarian (REHS/RS) Exam. Professionals who hold this credential demonstrate competency in an impressive range of environmental health topics, including vector control, septic systems, water quality, hazardous materials, air quality, built environment, performing and communicating inspections of a variety of permitted facilities, responding to routine or emergency environmental situations, and providing education to their communities. This is the first time in over two years that the Environmental Health branch has multiple REHS/RS on the team.

Vector Control

Mosquito Abatement

The Environmental Health branch led mosquito abatement efforts from May through August 2025 to support the community in minimizing mosquito nuisances and the potential of mosquito-borne illness. During this time, three aerial helicopter larvicide treatments, one adulticide fogging or misting treatment, and multiple hand treatments were completed. Multiple factors influence the pesticide treatment performed, including the timeframe within the season, water body classification, temperature, precipitation, type of pesticide, budget, and staffing availability.

Although a similar number of complaints were fielded and responded to in 2025 as there were in 2024, according to a Carson City resident, CCHHS was able to effectively mitigate mosquito growth in one of the most challenging mosquito habitats in Carson City – Buzzy's Ranch/Mexican Ditch Area. The positive feedback described 2025 as one of the best summers living there for 25 years, and the Carson City resident attributed it to the number of mosquito treatments performed in the area.

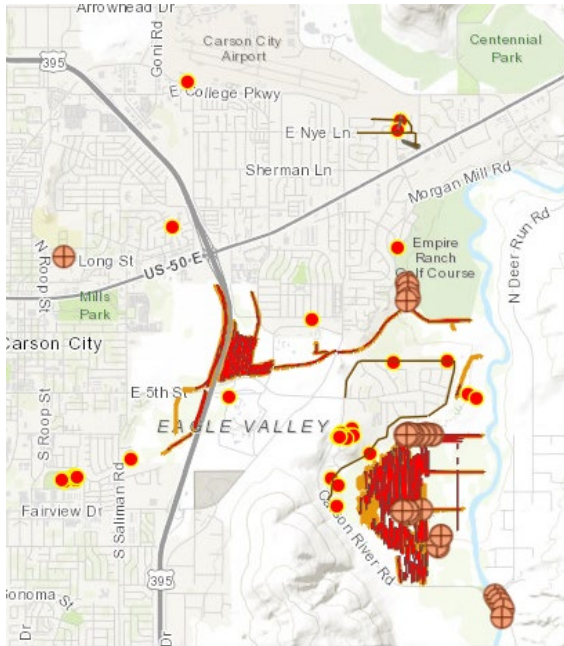


Figure 2. Map of Carson City mosquito treatment and trapping sites

Over the last 30 years, the mosquito populations in Carson City have ebbed and flowed due to changing environmental conditions, water sources, mosquito-eating insects, and other environmental factors. One of the biggest factors driving mosquito habitat is development in current treatment areas. With new housing developments and the diversion of surface and wetland water, aerial treatments will soon no longer be an option. Consequently, CCHHS will need to shift its approach to mosquito abatement in these areas. CCHHS is actively changing its approach by partnering with multiple Carson City Departments. This collaboration will result in a more systematic approach to mosquito mitigation across Carson City. The goal of this partnership is to strategize the most effective and efficient ways to perform mosquito abatement treatments to best serve the community.

Credible Mind

Mental Wellbeing Partnership

Carson City Health and Human Services has partnered with Credible Mind to provide digital resources to address behavioral health and mental wellbeing with our staff. These digital resources are evidence-based and cover a wide range of topics that can be personalized based on staff's needs. By streamlining resources with a digital front door, we are empowering staff to take action with their mental wellbeing prior to a crisis and to utilize resources available to them. Credible Mind is a tool to use before the Employee Assistance Program (EAP). The CCHHS Credible Mind platform launched in February, and the first topics being addressed include conflict and communication, sleep quality, gratitude, and stress.

If you have any questions about this report, please reach out to us at:

- Email: CCHHSinfo@carsoncity.gov
- 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