



Central Nevada Health District Health Officer's Report

Fourth Quarter 2025
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Environmental Health Services

The Environmental Health Services Division continued its commitment to protecting public health through proactive inspection, permitting, plan review and community engagement activities across the district fulfilling statutory obligations of compliance and enforcement in accordance with Nevada Administrative Code, Nevada Revised Statutes and CNHD Regulations

From Q1 through Q4, Environmental Health Specialists conducted a total of 421 inspections of permitted establishments. These inspections were categorized by risk level to ensure resources were appropriately allocated based on potential public health impact as follows:

- 76 Low-Risk inspections
- 173 Moderate-Risk inspections
- 82 High-Risk inspections
- 90 Non-Risk inspections

High-risk and moderate-risk establishments remain a priority due to their increased potential for foodborne illness and public health hazards. Through education, compliance assistance, and enforcement where necessary, the Division worked closely and in partnership with operators to maintain health and safety standards.

In addition to establishment inspections, the Division conducted over 500 temporary event inspections during peak event season, supporting community festivals, fairs, and public gatherings throughout the district. These efforts ensured that sanitation practices were maintained during high-volume and seasonal events.

The Division collaborated with multiple partners including local public works departments, building departments, fire departments, and other

agencies in guiding safe development and business growth within the district. In 2025, Environmental Health Specialist staff conducted at least 50 construction projects plan reviews for new construction and/or remodel projects. These reviews ensured that establishments were designed and built in compliance with state and local public health regulations before opening to the public.

Supporting Nevada's Cottage Food Program, the Division approved 32 new Cottage Food Operation registrations in addition to reviewing additional product labels and new food items submitted by existing cottage food operators to verify regulatory compliance and proper consumer notification requirements.

Service Category	Total Performed (2025)
Inspections (Total)	421
• Low Risk	76
• Moderate Risk	173
• High Risk	82
• Non-Risk	90
Temporary Event Inspections	500+
Plan Reviews (New & Remodel Construction)	50+
New Cottage Food Registrations Approved	32

The Division also responded to constituent public health concerns and complaints throughout the year, ensuring each inquiry was addressed in a timely and professional manner. Investigations included appropriate documentation, corrective action guidance when necessary, and follow-up to verify resolution and the protection of public health within the community.

In 2025, the Environmental Health Services Division strengthened its operations by implementing new processes, protocols, response methodologies, and updated their website to reflect improved efficiency, consistency, and public health outcomes. The program also initiated formal compliance letters to accompany inspection reports, providing clearer explanations of findings, corrective actions, and regulatory requirements.

To maintain high standards of regulatory oversight and technical expertise in service and delivery to the district, Environmental Health Specialists participated in ongoing professional development throughout the year. Staff attended training and earned continuing units (CEUs) to maintain required certifications and remain current with federal, state and industry standards.

2025 Year-End Highlights

During 2025, Environmental Health Specialist staff achieved several notable professional certifications:

- EPA Lead Assessor Certification

- EPA Lead Inspector Certification
- Certified Pool Operator (CPO) Certification

These credentials strengthen the Division's ability to respond to environmental hazards, oversee public bathing facilities, and ensure staff preparedness in emergency situations.

Epidemiology Program

Quarterly Summary Report (Q1–Q4 Overview)

Over the past year, the CNHD Epidemiology Program maintained a strong focus on outbreak response, respiratory virus surveillance, emerging infectious diseases, environmental health monitoring, and expansion into chronic disease prevention. The department demonstrated rapid response capability, strengthened healthcare and school partnerships, and advanced preparedness efforts across multiple public health priorities.

Quarter 1: H5N1 Response & Peak Respiratory Activity

The year began with a significant Highly Pathogenic Avian Influenza (HPAI) H5N1 outbreak affecting dairy farms in Fallon. Nearly 100 exposed dairy workers were placed under daily symptom monitoring. Response measures included PPE distribution, testing and treatment of exposed individuals, antiviral prophylaxis for close contacts, and coordination with the Nevada Department of Public and Behavioral Health (DPBH), Nevada Department of Agriculture, USDA, and CDC.

One confirmed human case was identified and presented with mild conjunctivitis only. A new bovine lineage (D1.1) was detected. The outbreak remained active through late February.

Respiratory virus activity was elevated during this quarter. Influenza A predominated, with increased hospitalizations and four influenza-related deaths reported. One school-based influenza outbreak occurred. RSV activity also surged, particularly among school-aged children.

The department also managed an active tuberculosis case, supported the Congenital Syphilis Action Plan, participated in statewide syndemic planning groups, and attended the Rural Public Health Summit.

Quarter 2: Measles Preparedness & Outbreak Closure

In April, CNHD successfully concluded its H5N1 outbreak response after monitoring more than 100 workers across 11 dairy farms and conducting a targeted mass influenza testing event.

With rising national measles activity, CNHD developed and implemented a comprehensive Measles Outbreak Response Plan. Preparedness activities included:

- Hospital infection prevention protocols

- Assessment of Measles Immune Globulin (MiG) availability
- Pharmacy outreach regarding MMR vaccine capacity
- School nurse education and parent guidance materials
- Participation in national outbreak response drills

Respiratory season totals included:

- 562 influenza cases (48 hospitalizations, 4 deaths)
- 273 RSV cases (11 hospitalizations)
- 242 COVID-19 cases

Additional investigations included a gastrointestinal outbreak, meningococcal disease case, travel-associated dengue case, TB contact follow-up, and the county's first documented HIV-positive patient. Increased STI activity was also monitored.

Quarter 3: Q Fever Monitoring & Continued Preparedness

During Q3, CNHD intensified measles preparedness efforts through hospital coordination, school engagement, pharmacy assessments, and tabletop exercise planning.

A notable increase in Q fever cases was identified in Fallon, with three confirmed cases in July and additional suspected cases investigated. No epidemiologic links were identified. The department conducted case interviews, environmental assessments, and collaborated closely with the state health department.

Environmental monitoring included one Harmful Algae Bloom (HAB) Watch Warning at Lahontan Reservoir. No West Nile Virus activity was reported.

CNHD also contributed to a July 2025 publication in *Nature Medicine* detailing national H5N1 case data and participated in the Council of State and Territorial Epidemiologists (CSTE) Annual Conference.

This quarter also marked development of two chronic disease prevention programs focused on heart health and diabetes prevention, scheduled for implementation in early 2026.

Quarter 4: Active Respiratory Season & Program Expansion

CNHD entered the 2025–2026 respiratory virus season with strong preparedness measures in place. Influenza activity increased significantly beginning mid-December, with a sharp rise during the third week of December accompanied by increased hospitalizations.

The department continued comprehensive surveillance of communicable diseases, STIs, healthcare-associated infections, lead exposure, and

foodborne illnesses. Updated foodborne illness response policies and rabies-related animal bite protocols are in development.

Weekly communication and monthly meetings with school nurses across four counties strengthened illness monitoring and outbreak detection. A new school nurse in Mineral County will be integrated into this collaborative structure.

Chronic disease prevention programming expanded with finalization of heart health and diabetes prevention classes to be offered across all four counties in early 2026, targeting approximately 100 participants.

Environmental health efforts included a HAB advisory for Walker Lake and participation in the Nevada HAB Taskforce. CNHD also continued engagement in two statewide syndemic planning subgroups addressing infectious diseases and substance use intersections.

Additionally, the Epidemiology Program is collaborating with a vendor to launch a real-time respiratory surveillance dashboard in early 2026 to enhance transparency and situational awareness.

Year-End Program Highlights

Throughout the year, the CNHD Epidemiology Program demonstrated:

- Effective management of a complex H5N1 outbreak
- Strong respiratory virus surveillance and school coordination
- Proactive measles preparedness
- Investigation of emerging infectious disease clusters (Q fever, dengue, meningitis)
- Expansion into chronic disease prevention programming
- Enhanced environmental monitoring (HABs, vector surveillance)
- Strengthened partnerships with state, federal, healthcare, and education partners
- Development of improved surveillance infrastructure

The Epidemiology Department remains committed to early detection, rapid response, coordinated prevention strategies, and protecting the health of communities across all four CNHD counties.

Clinical Services

CNHD Clinical Services 2025

	January	February	March	April	May	June	July	August	September	October	November	December
Family Planning Patients	19	18	18	28	20	12	17	12	13	17	9	15
-Birth Control	12	7	4	9	5	4	10	6	4	8	2	4
-STI Screening or Testing	9	9	12	20	8	9	9	8	5	8	6	8
-STI Treatment	2	1	4	10	2	0	1	0	1	2	2	3
-Other urogenital infection treatment	0	3	3	4	6	1	0	2	4	3	1	3
-Pap/Breast Cancer Screening	3	2	2	1	1	4	1	2	4	1	0	2
TB screenings	37	20	12	25	14	14	12	10	11	9	13	24
TB treatment	0	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	0	0	0	0
Immunizations												
# of Vaccines Administered	46	23	32	40	50	42	58	148	44	32	34	22
Outreach												
Senior Center Visits	5	5	6	5	5	4	6	5	6	5	6	6
Back to School Events	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	7	1	0	0	0
Flu Pods	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	7	0	0

*# of flu vaccines given at PODS										316		
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During 2025, a total of 198 family planning patients were served, averaging about 17 patients per month. Patient volume varied throughout the year, with a peak of 28 patients and a low of 9. The most frequently provided service was STI screening and testing, with 111 patients screened, highlighting a strong focus on sexual health prevention. Birth control services were also commonly utilized, totaling 75 visits. Fewer patients required follow-up care, as reflected by 28 STI treatments and 30 treatments for other urogenital infections. Preventive cancer services were provided less often, with 23 Pap and breast cancer screenings. Overall, the data reflects consistent utilization of family planning services, with preventive and screening services making up the majority of visits.

Over the 12 months, TB screening services were consistently provided, with a total of 201 screenings conducted. Screening volume fluctuated throughout the year, ranging from a high of 37 to a low of 9. In contrast, TB treatment services were limited, with only 1 patient treated over a 6-month duration.

A total of 571 vaccines were administered, reflecting generally consistent immunization activity throughout the year. Most months recorded between 22 and 58 vaccinations, with one significant surge of 148 vaccines administered in August. This can be correlated with children needing back-to-school vaccines, while routine vaccination services remained steady during the rest of the year.

Public Health Preparedness

In 2025, the Public Health Preparedness Program continued to strengthen regional readiness and response capabilities through collaboration, planning, training, and resource development. Program staff worked closely with local and state partners to fulfill grant objectives by actively participating in state-led and local meetings, training, and exercises designed to enhance emergency preparedness coordination across jurisdictions.

Throughout the year, CNHD staff participated in local exercises with Churchill, Eureka, Mineral, and Pershing Counties, strengthening interagency coordination and response capabilities. Staff also assisted with mass casualty, mass care, and hazard mitigation planning efforts in partnership with local jurisdictions in Churchill, Eureka, Mineral, and Pershing Counties, contributing public health expertise to multi-agency emergency planning initiatives.

The program experienced staffing changes mid-year and is currently working to fill the vacant position to ensure continued program stability and support for district-wide preparedness activities. Despite this transition, CNHD staff-maintained program momentum by collaborating and coordinating with local partners to secure funding in support of the development and enhancement of CNHD emergency response and operations plans.

To maintain operational readiness and situational awareness, staff attended regional, statewide, and out-of-state training focused on emergency response coordination, preparedness strategy, and public health emergency management best practices.

A significant advancement in 2025 was the acquisition of an Emergency Response Trailer, which will enhance CNHD’s ability to deploy resources, support field operations, and strengthen emergency response capabilities throughout the district. This addition represents an important investment in infrastructure to better serve communities during emergencies and public health incidents.

Through continued collaboration, training, planning, and resource development, the Public Health Preparedness Program remains committed to strengthening resilience and ensuring coordinated emergency response capacity across the Central Nevada Health District.

Recognitions

Dr. Tedd McDonald M.D. was recognized on November 20, 2025, on National Rural Health Day, as a National Community Star representing the State of Nevada. He was nominated by the Nevada State Office of Rural Health and selected by the National Office of Rural Health.

Maria Menjivar has produced and starred in two webcasts entitled "Meet Your Inspector". These webcasts are designed to educate and familiarize those business owners and agencies within the CNHD with the process of the inspection services required by NRS. She will continue to provide this program as a service and educational tool for our communities.

Banner Health Hospital and Rural Clinics in Churchill and Lyon Counties instituted masking protocols for their facilities, staff, and patients during the influenza surge in December and January. The mandate was based on previous lessons learned from the COVID-19 pandemic and a desire to protect patients and staff in the healthcare environment.

Administrative Update

Staff/Available Positions

The Central Nevada Health District has been advertised, and interviews will begin in mid-February for the position of Administrator. The Board of the Central Nevada Health District has determined that the organizational structure for the CNHD will revert to traditional structure.

The current Central Nevada Health District APRN has resigned their position starting the end of February. Advertisement for the position will be posted by mid-February. Until the position is filled, the district health officer will serve as interim Clinical Director and provider. Transitional hand off is ongoing.

CNHD continues to fill the Eureka Resource Liaison, Public Health Preparedness Planner and Public Health Program Coordinator positions.

Processes

CNHD has developed an updated fee schedule for all services. During the 1st quarter of 2026 the fee schedule will be released for public comment with the goal of being approved in the 2nd quarter.

The team is working with many potential partners to expand services in rural Nevada through the Rural Health Transformation Program. The goal is to align for submittal this spring to increase healthcare access in rural / frontier Nevada, build capacity to build sustainable services, and build workforce for services in the communities.

CNHD is committed to working with neighboring health authorities to develop mutual aid agreements.

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