

DATE: June 6, 2025

TO: State Board of Health Members

FROM: Cassius Lockett, PhD, District Health Officer

SUBJECT: District Health Officer Report

Legionnaires' Disease Investigations

The Southern Nevada Health District announced two separate investigations of five travel-associated cases of Legionnaires' disease in individuals who stayed at The Grandview and South Point Hotels. The initial investigation at The Grandview included one person who stayed at the property in February 2025, while the other two stayed in April 2025. All three were hospitalized; two have since recovered, and one remained hospitalized at the time the Health District received the report. The investigation at South Point included one person who stayed at the property in August 2024, while the other stayed in February 2025.

Following notification of cases, the Health District conducted environmental water sampling at the facilities. Multiple water samples at both facilities tested positive for *Legionella*, the bacteria that can cause Legionnaires' disease. In response, both The Grandview and South Point conducted immediate water system remediation efforts and follow-up testing to help ensure the safety of their water systems. The facilities are fully cooperating with the Health District's investigations, have initiated guest notifications regarding the potential exposure, and are implementing precautionary measures to mitigate any further risk of illness.

Legionnaires' disease symptoms typically begin within two to 10 days after exposure to the bacteria. However, people should watch for symptoms such as cough, shortness of breath, fever, muscle aches and headaches for up to two weeks after exposure. Guests who stayed at the facilities before May 7, 2025, and are not experiencing symptoms, are not considered at risk for infection.

Guests who stayed at The Grandview on or after March 27, 2025, and who developed or are experiencing symptoms within 14 days of their stay are urged to complete a confidential illness survey, at https://survey.alchemer.com/s3/8323167/Grandview-Legionella-Investigation.

Guests who stayed at the South Point Hotel on or after April 16, 2025, and who developed or are experiencing symptoms within 14 days of their stay are urged to complete a confidential illness survey, at https://survey.alchemer.com/s3/8326801/South-Point-Legionella-Investigation.

If guests are currently still symptomatic, they should seek medical attention and alert their medical provider of the potential exposure.

People who are at increased risk of getting sick include:

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- o People 50 years or older
- Current or former smokers
- o People with chronic lung disease
- o People with weakened immune systems
- People who take drugs that can weaken their immune systems (after a transplant operation or chemotherapy)
- o People with underlying illnesses such as diabetes, kidney failure, or liver failure

Anyone with additional questions can contact the Health District's Helpline at (702) 759-4636 (INFO), Monday – Friday, from 8 a.m. – 4:30 p.m. More information on Legionnaire's disease is available on the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention website at www.cdc.gov/legionella/index.html.

2025 Community Health Assessment

The Southern Nevada Health District, in collaboration with community partners, has released the 2025 Community Health Assessment (CHA), a comprehensive evaluation of Clark County's health needs, strengths and available resources. The assessment is available on the Healthy Southern Nevada website.

As part of the prioritization process, the Health District and community members met on April 30 to review key health indicators and collectively identify the most pressing public health issues in Clark County. Based on this collaborative assessment, the top three health priorities selected are:

- 1. Access to Care
- 2. Chronic Disease
- 3. Public Health Funding

Additional community meetings are planned this summer to continue the development of the Community Health Improvement Plan (CHIP) which will guide future public health strategies.

The CHA serves as a foundational element of public health by supporting its three core functions: assessment, policy development, and assurance. It serves as a vital tool for identifying health challenges and assets, informing policy and evaluating public health efforts. The overarching goal is to achieve health equity by identifying urgent health issues in the community and aligning resources to support healthier outcomes.

During the assessment process, common themes emerged from the feedback provided by the community participants, including:

- Social Determinants of Health
- Access to Care
- Mental Health
- Chronic Disease
- Public Health Funding
- Environmental Factors
- Substance Use
- Infectious Disease

The assessment process incorporates three key evaluations: the Community Partner Assessment, the Community Context Assessment and the Community Status Assessment. This work was conducted using the

Mobilizing Action through Planning and Partnerships (MAPP) framework developed by the National Association of County and City Health Officials. MAPP is a community-driven strategic process that encourages collaboration and data-informed decision-making.

The 2025 CHA is designed to inform the public, stakeholders and organizations about the current health status of Clark County residents. Its findings will help to identify strategic priorities and the development of a CHIP, which will direct health initiatives and interventions for the next three to five years.

For more information on the CHA and CHIP process, go to Mobilizing for Action through Planning and Partnerships (MAPP) – NACCHO. Additional information is available from the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention at Community Planning for Health Assessment: CHA & CHIP | Public Health Gateway | CDC.

"Beat the Heat" Public Health Initiative

In May, the Health District, Clark County and community partners teamed up to remind residents and visitors that Southern Nevada's desert heat can be dangerous for people of all ages and offered safety tips to help prepare for the region's upcoming hot weather.

The annual "Beat the Heat SNV" effort includes educational information and resources available on the Health District's website at www.southernnevadahealthdistrict.org/programs/beattheheatsnv. Resources include fact Spanish and public service announcements.

According to the National Weather Service, 2024 was the hottest summer on record for Southern Nevada. The average temperature was 107.6 degrees, with a record number of consecutive days over 110 degrees, including an all-time high of 120 degrees on July 7. More than 3,500 visits to local emergency rooms last year were heat-related, as reported in the Health <u>District's Heat-Associated Deaths and Emergency</u> <u>Department Visits Report</u>.

Move Your Way Campaign

Clark County residents are invited to ready their swimsuits and sunscreen for the Health District's annual Move Your Way® campaign. The Health District's Office of Chronic Disease Prevention and Health Promotion is turning up the fun this summer with a splashy series of free events to get people moving and feeling great.

The excitement kicked off on May 23 with "Slide into Summer," a family-friendly pool party at the Henderson Multi-Gen Activity Pool, with seven more aquatic events planned at public pools across the Valley through September 13—perfect for cooling off, getting active and having fun with friends and family. The full schedule is available at GetHealthyClarkCounty.org or VivaSaludable.org.

According to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, 27% of adults and 16% of high school students in Clark County are considered sedentary, which can lead to serious health problems down the line. That's why the Health District is teaming up with community partners to make it easier to get active.

Move Your Way® is a physical activity campaign from the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services to promote the recommendations from the Physical Activity Guidelines for Americans and encourage people to incorporate them into everyday life. The campaign provides resources to help people stay on track in improving their fitness.

The Get Healthy Clark County and Viva Saludable websites also offer free, online programs that can help increase physical activity. Online programs include Walk Around Nevada and Neon to Nature. Additional

programs include tools and resources about healthy eating, nutritional information tips, smoking cessation and resources to help maintain a healthier lifestyle.

Walk Around Nevada Program Celebrates 20th Anniversary

In April, the Health District celebrated the 20th anniversary of Walk Around Nevada, a free, interactive program that has had more than 12,000 participants since its launch in 2005. The Walk Around Nevada program has been recognized as a Model Practice Program by the National Association of County and City Health Officials.

The web-based program, available at <u>GetHealthyClarkCounty.org</u> and as a mobile app, allows users to log their miles or steps and track their progress as they virtually "walk" across the state. An activity conversion chart also helps participants turn various physical activities into miles or steps—so no matter how a person moves, they are always making progress.

As participants make their way through the program, they reach virtual geographic milestones that unlock pop-up windows with historical facts, destination stories and tips to help build healthy habits. Participants who complete the virtual 1,442-mile trek around the Silver State are eligible for a free t-shirt and recognition in the Walk Around Nevada Hall of Fame on the GetHealthyClarkCounty.org website. To date, about 300 participants have each walked at least 1,442 miles, collectively logging more than one million miles.

For more information about the Walk Around Nevada program, or to access all the programs and resources offered by the Health District's Office of Chronic Disease Prevention and Health Promotion, go to www.GetHealthyClarkCounty.org.

Soda Free Summer Challenge

The Southern Nevada Health District's Office of Chronic Disease Prevention and Health Promotion has launched its annual Soda Free Summer Challenge, now underway through August 31. The campaign encourages everyone to choose healthier beverages in favor of soda and other sugary drinks.

Sugar-sweetened beverages—including popular choices like sodas, energy drinks, fruit drinks, and sweetened coffees and teas—are a leading source of added sugars in the American diet. A standard 12-ounce soda can contain up to 10 teaspoons of sugar. Added sugars contribute to issues such as obesity, type 2 diabetes, cardiovascular disease and tooth decay.

Nationally, 63% of youth and 49% of adults report having sugary drinks once daily or more. On average, children consume more than 30 gallons of sugary drinks per year, enough to fill an entire bathtub. The average American consumes approximately 17 teaspoons of added sugar each day. Adolescents (12-19 years old) are the highest consumers of sugar-sweetened beverages. In Clark County, 13.2% of adolescents drank one can, bottle or glass of soda at least once per day during 2023, up from 11.4% in 2019.

According to the American Heart Association, men should consume no more than 9 teaspoons of added sugar per day. For women, the recommended daily maximum is 6 teaspoons. Adults and children are encouraged to limit sugary drinks and opt for healthier alternatives including water, unsweetened tea and plain milk.

Consumers are advised to read nutrition labels to determine how much added sugar is included in their drinks. For more information on sugary drinks and the Soda Free Summer Challenge visit www.VivaSaludable.org.

County Health Rankings and Roadmaps

The Health District hosted a briefing on the 2025 Health Rankings on March 19. The County Health Rankings are released by the University of Wisconsin Population Health Institute and provide a snapshot of local health data. The data provided allow each state to compare county health on a range of health outcomes and factors, including access to health and mental health care, the physical environment, social and economic factors, smoking, access to healthy food and more.

Presenters include representatives from the Health District and partners. Topics include the County Health Rankings Data and Interpretations: an update on the Health District Community Health Improvement Plan; Smoke-Free Policies in Multi-Unit Housing; Increasing Access to Healthier Foods for Low-Income Seniors; Expanding Access to Care—Implementing Integrated Behavioral Health at the Southern Nevada Community Health Center; and New Tools for Change—Introducing the Health District's Health and Equity and Substance Use Dashboards.

NOTE: The Robert Wood Johnson Foundation is ending funding for the County Health Rankings in 2026.