

September 2018

## From the Office of the

### District Health Officer

Health Officer to serve on County Complex  
Master Plan Steering Committee

### Planning underway on 20-year initiative

Washoe County's Community Services Department (CSD) has initiated development of a Master Plan for the County Complex to anticipate and plan for space and facility needs over the next twenty years. Health Officer Kevin Dick has been invited to serve on the Master Plan Steering Committee.

CSD contracted with **Collaborative Design Studios** to provide professional support for the plan. Following a kick-off meeting with county departments, **Collaborative Design Studios** personnel toured the Health District and were provided historic statistics on Health District staffing and workload measures. Representatives discussed the nature of Health District work, opportunities for automation and efficiency, and services and staffing needs expected in the future to enhance quality of life through public health activities. The Master Plan is scheduled for completion in March 2019.

### Smoky July sets Air Quality records

Air Quality Management staff experienced a significant increase in demand for information as a result of the smoke from California wildfires. The demand was met in numerous ways by the Washoe County Health District's Air Quality **Keep It Clean-Be Smoke Smart** campaign. As part of the Be Smoke Smart campaign, AQMD staff routinely collect air quality data at our seven monitoring sites in Washoe County, validate the data, and then upload it to EPA for retrieval by AirNow to develop a daily forecast. AirNow is an EPA program designed to translate air quality data into numbers and colors that help people understand when to take action to protect their health.

### In this issue:

- County Complex Master Plan
- July sets Air Quality records
- Immunization updates
- Environmental Health Training success
- Preparedness Month includes 911 messaging

Record numbers for the month of July included thirty-one AirNow forecasts and twelve alerts warning the public of elevated pollution levels as a result of the transport of wildfire smoke, with at least one alert sent each day from July 20 – 31. EnviroFlash is another EPA product that provides a notification to alert subscribers of the current air quality. July saw an increase of nearly seventy (70) subscribers for a total of 465 confirmed subscribers, which includes all media and governmental partners. As a result of the alerts, staff conducted nine television interviews and an interview with Associated Press Reno. Of particular interest to the media and the public was announcement of ozone levels due to wildfires being the worst in Washoe County in ten years.

<https://www.washoecounty.us/outreach/2018/07/2018-07-30-ozone-health.php>



View from National Weather Service first week of August 2018

Social media activity also increased in July. Twitter saw 95 tweets, not including retweets, for a total of 106,000 impressions. There were 117 posts on Facebook, including shares, for a total of 64,700 impressions. OurCleanAir.com also experienced an increase in activity to 5,706 page views. AQMD staff will continue to provide the most accurate and current information to help the community **Be Smoke Smart** throughout the duration of the 2018 fire season.

## IZ here, IZ there, IZ, IZ everywhere

National Immunization Awareness Month gave CCHS Division Director Steve Kutz an opportunity to update the District Board of Health on the importance of vaccination across the lifespan and immunization activities here in Washoe County.

An assessment of vaccination coverage for 2017 showed that 77.4% of children aged 19-35 months had received age-appropriate vaccinations at the time of their visits to clinics or healthcare providers located in Washoe County. The Healthy People 2020 objective is 80% for children aged 19 to 35 months to have received the recommended doses of the childhood vaccines DTaP, polio, MMR, Hib, hepatitis B, varicella and pneumococcal conjugate.

Year	2017	2016	2015	2014	2013	2012	2011
Rate (%)	77.4	80.2	79.0	75.6	74.2	73.6	71.2

The Immunization Program continues to provide on-site clinic services five days per week. Additionally, off-site vaccinations have been provided through partnerships such as Immunize Nevada, Washoe County School District, and the Nevada State Immunization Program.

Flu and pneumonia vaccines, as well as other vaccines, were also provided for high risk clients at Project Homeless Connect and a residential drug rehabilitation center. Additionally, immunizations and education were provided at a Remote Area Medical (RAM) event, Northern Nevada Children's Cancer Foundation, Mexican Consulate Binational Health Event, Children's Cabinet, Mariposa Academy, a Pediatric Community Flu Shot Clinic and a community Baby Shower event. A total of 1,539 doses of vaccine were administered to 921 clients at these events. All of these off-site clinics contribute to maintaining and improving preparedness for an influenza pandemic or other vaccine preventable disease outbreak.

A Point of Dispensing (POD) event was held on October 4th, in partnership with EPHP. Additionally, employee flu shot clinics were held and the program took over providing required vaccinations for new WCHD staff.

### School Located Clinics 2015-2018 Flu Seasons

Flu Season	# of School Located Vaccination Clinics	IIV4 (Injectable)	LAIV Nasal Spray	Total Doses	Children	Adults	Total Served
2015-16	14	152	759	911	833	78	911
2016-17	15	1,047	0	1,047	869	178	1,047
2017-18	17	1,089	0	1,089	963	126	1,089

Immunization Program staff are also responsible for carrying out a variety of grant related activities such as: conducting provider visits to enhance stewardship and accountability for Vaccine for Children and 317 publicly-purchased vaccines; provider education for improved immunization rates; and, program

improvement. Perinatal hepatitis B surveillance and follow-up is another grant component that is carried out by the Epidemiology program. Additional accomplishments in Fiscal Year 2018 included:

- Immunization lectures for nursing students at University of Nevada, Reno
- Immunization panel discussion for Community Health Sciences class
- Phone queue for appointment scheduling

## Environmental Health Services (EHS) Training

Another two EHS trainee staff members successfully passed the Registered Environmental Health Specialist (REHS) exam in July. Since 2016, six staff members who have used materials including the Training Manual and Study Materials customized by the EHS Training Program have successfully passed the REHS exam on their first try. Additionally, the Training Program developed schedules and training for a new EHS Intermittent Hourly and Public Service Intern for the first half of fiscal 2018/2019.

The six successful staff that have most recently passed the REHS exam are **Matt Christensen, Mike Touhey, Ellen Messinger-Patton, Briana Johnson, Will Lumpkin, and Will Mountjoy**. *Congratulations!*

## Preparedness Month includes 911 messaging



When to use, or not to use 911 will be the highlight of several messages from the Health District, Washoe County, Reno, and Sparks during September in recognition of National Preparedness Month. A media event is scheduled for September 11 at the Regional Emergency Operations Center when local call centers or Public Safety Answering Points (PSAPs) formally begin accepting text messages to 911. Responders will also get the opportunity to continue community education on the proper use of 911, reminding residents that non-emergency calls to 911 place a strain on dispatchers and first responders which can impact the response to serious emergencies.

**Call if you can, Text if you can't** is the message for **Text to 911** users specifically for citizens who are hard-of-hearing, deaf or speech-impaired, or for situations when a crime is in progress or the caller is injured and cannot speak. **Know the Difference - Think before you dial 911** is the message for citizens to prevent unneeded emergency response.