Contact Tracing and Disease Investigation Update

From June 27 – July 10, 2021, the Carson City Health and Human Services COVID-19 Disease Investigation Team was able to attempt contact with sixty-eight percent of cases and successfully contact forty-four percent within twenty-four hours. The Investigation Team continued utilizing the more expanded investigation to collect information such as symptomology, medical history, and refocused exposure questions. As always, the information reported here is based on preliminary laboratory findings and completed survey investigations and does not necessarily represent all cases during this two-week period.

CCHHS continues to partner with the Nevada Resilience Project, who reaches out to cases, close contacts, and other members of the community impacted by COVID-19 that were identified as having challenges associated with the pandemic including, but not limited to, managing work or school, social isolation, mental health, and resource navigation. During this two-week period, the Resilience Ambassadors identified one individual, families, or organizational groups that could benefit from their services and have done several community events.

Quad-County Area Demographics

Across the Quad-County area (Carson City, Douglas, Lyon, and Storey Counties), there were 105 new COVID-19 cases in the two-week period from June 27 – July 10, 2021. This a sixteen percent decrease from the previously reported two-week period. The daily cases reported, based on a seven-day average, over this two-week period was eight (Graph 1). This indicates that, on average, there have been eight new cases each day throughout the Quad-County area.

Oftentimes lab reports are received with incomplete data and our survey data is on a delay. As such, the following demographic data has a significant percentage of unknown or missing information. The average age across all counties was forty-three years old with a range of less than one years old to eighty-seven years old. Forty-three percent of cases were female, and fifty-six percent were male. Of the
cases that reported their race, seventy-eight percent were reported as White, fourteen percent of cases were reported as other, one percent reported American Indian or Alaskan Native, two percent reported as Asian, one percent reported Black or African American, and two percent preferred not to answer. Of those who reported their ethnicity, eighty-three percent reported as Non-Hispanic or Latino/a, fifteen percent reported as Hispanic or Latino/a, and two percent preferred not to answer. There were seven known hospitalizations across all counties during this two-week period. There was thirty percent decrease from the previous two-week period. According to the Nevada Hospital Association report on July 7, 2021, hospitalizations are starting to slightly increase in Northern Nevada. Ventilator use as well as ICU occupancy continues to remain low. There was a twenty-two percent increase from the previous week. There was one COVID-19 related death across the four counties. Morbidity data is often delayed, so this number only represents the data that has been made available for this two-week period.

Quad-County Area Exposure

Among cases with complete information, the most common, known COVID-19 exposures were community and household (Graph 2). Cases can have more than one exposure. The information on the graph and below indicates the percentage of cases that said “yes” to each question, independently. Approximately sixty-seven percent of cases had related community exposure. This can be family gatherings, weddings, funerals, birthday parties, political events, or any other similar activity. Community exposure, as defined by the state, also refers to individuals that did not know where they were exposed. Seventeen percent of cases had household exposure, indicating that the transmission occurred within the immediate household.

COVID-19 Variants of Concern

The Nevada State Public Health Laboratory (NSPHL) conducts genome sequencing from a sample of confirmed COVID-19 cases as part of disease surveillance which helps identify new and emerging variants. The emergence of new variants is a natural occurrence in infectious diseases. According to the CDC, there are currently six COVID-19 variants of concern across the United States. Knowledge of emerging SARS-CoV-2 variants is quickly evolving, however there is evidence indicating that these variants are more transmissible. According to the NSPHL, B.1.1.7, also known as the Alpha (U.K.) variant, is the most prevalent SARS-CoV-2 variant among all the samples sequences in Nevada followed by the newly classified variant of concern, B.1.167.2 also known as the Delta (India) variant. The Quad-County reported one B.1.1.7 variant cases and nine B.1.167.2 variant cases from June 27 – July 10, 2021. Data is often delayed due to the sequencing processes. Additionally, sequencing is conducted using only samples submitted to the NSPHL, which may not always include commercial laboratory samples and does not include Abbott BinaxNOW tests or other rapid antigen tests.
Quad-County Vaccinations

According to the Nevada State COVID-19 Dashboard, approximately forty percent of Quad County residents are fully vaccinated as of July 7, 2021. Carson City Health and Human Services continues to work with community stakeholders on vaccination outreach to increase vaccination rates among the community.

Douglas County Surveillance Summary

From June 27 – July 10, 2021, there were twenty-one confirmed cases reported in Douglas County. This represents approximately twenty percent of all Quad-County cases during this two-week period. There was twenty percent decrease from the previous two-week period. The daily cases reported, based on a seven-day average, over this two-week period was two. This indicates that, on average, there have been two new cases each day throughout Douglas County. Forty-three percent of cases were female, and fifty-two percent were male, and five percent reported as prefer not to answer. The average age of Douglas County cases was forty-five years old.

Douglas County Exposure

Of those with known exposures, eighty-four percent were exposed in the community. Eight percent of cases were exposed to someone in their household that had tested positive for COVID-19. The graph shows more information on Douglas County exposures (Graph 3). Just as above, exposure questions are independent, meaning an individual can answer “yes” to more than one exposure type.

CCHHS’s COVID-19 Epidemiologist is working closely with the state and the facilities to track the transmission and ensure mitigation efforts are in place. Transmission trends are challenging to track or predict.

Quad-County Vaccinations

According to the Nevada State COVID-19 Dashboard, approximately forty-five percent of Douglas County residents are fully vaccinated as of July 7, 2021. Carson City Health and Human Services continues to work with community stakeholders on vaccination outreach to increase vaccination rates among the community.