

**Population Health Division
Division Director Staff Report
Board Meeting Date: October 23, 2025**

DATE: October 16, 2025

TO: District Board of Health

FROM: Nancy Diao, ScD, PHD Director
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SUBJECT: **Population Health** – Epidemiology, Statistics and Informatics, Public Health Preparedness, Emergency Medical Services, Vital Statistics, Sexual Health Investigations and Outreach, Chronic Disease and Injury Prevention

Epidemiology Program

Respiratory Virus Surveillance

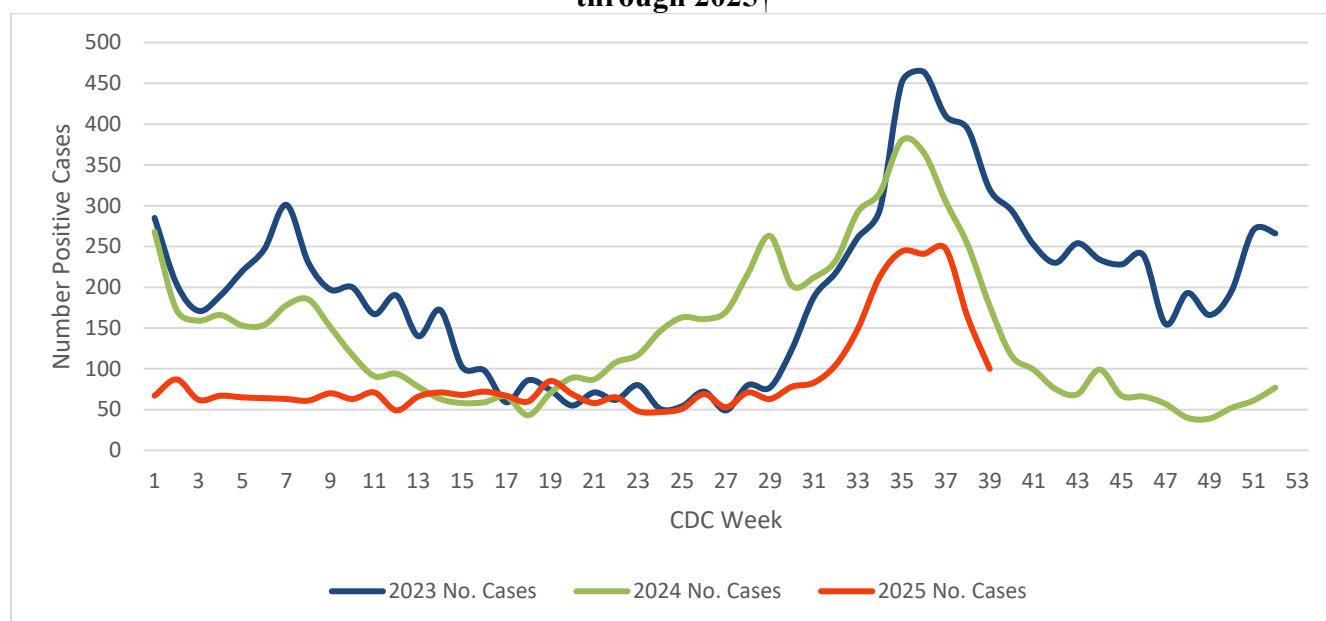
The 2025-2026 Respiratory Season began in MMWR Week 40, September 25th, 2025. Before the official start of the 2025-2026 Respiratory Season, updates on the respiratory dashboard continued for COVID-19 data, including number of weekly new cases, average new cases per day, cases/100K per week, weekly cases/100K, and weekly hospitalizations.

For the upcoming season, after a complete week of data is collected, the weekly respiratory updates will now be distributed and accessible through the 2025-2026 Respiratory Virus Surveillance Dashboard.

The Annual Influenza Hospitalization and Mortality Dashboard (for the 2024-2025 Respiratory Season) can be found here: [Access the Annual Influenza Hospitalization & Mortality Dashboard](#)

SARS-CoV-2 (COVID-19) – In August 2025, 749 new COVID-19 cases were reported; in September, 759 COVID-19 cases were reported (data as of 9/30/2025). Figure 3 provides an overview of the total number of confirmed COVID-19 cases in Washoe County by MMWR week following calendar years starting in 2023. Cases of COVID-19 surged in August and September, averaging greater than 40 cases per 100,000 residents per week for four weeks in a row but is now trending downwards. This pattern reflects the typical increase seen in the same timeframe for previous years.

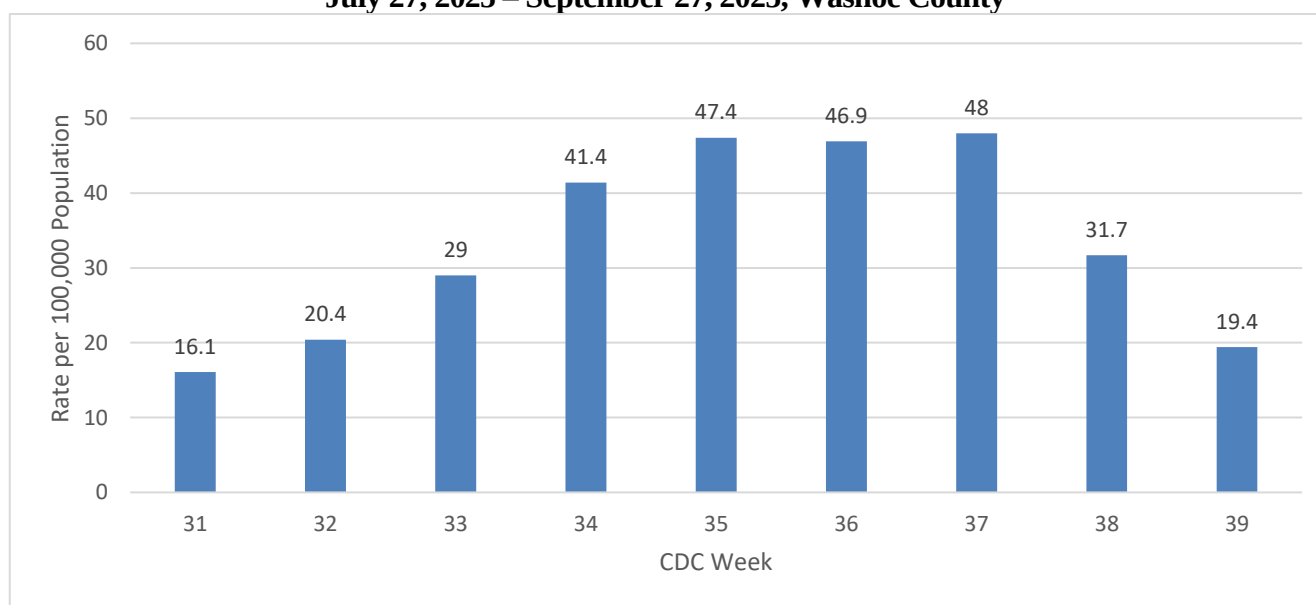
Fig 1. Total Number of COVID-19 Cases by Week of Report Date in Washoe County from 2023 through 2025†



† There is no MMWR week 53 in 2023 or 2024. Note: Data are displayed by calendar year.

Figure 4 illustrates the number of new cases by report date per 100,000 population over a nine-week period spanning July 27, 2025, through September 27, 2025. As of MMWR week 39, Washoe County received reports of 19.4 new cases per 100,000 population.

**Fig 2. Newly Reported COVID-19 Cases Per 100,000 Population by MMWR Week
 July 27, 2025 – September 27, 2025, Washoe County**

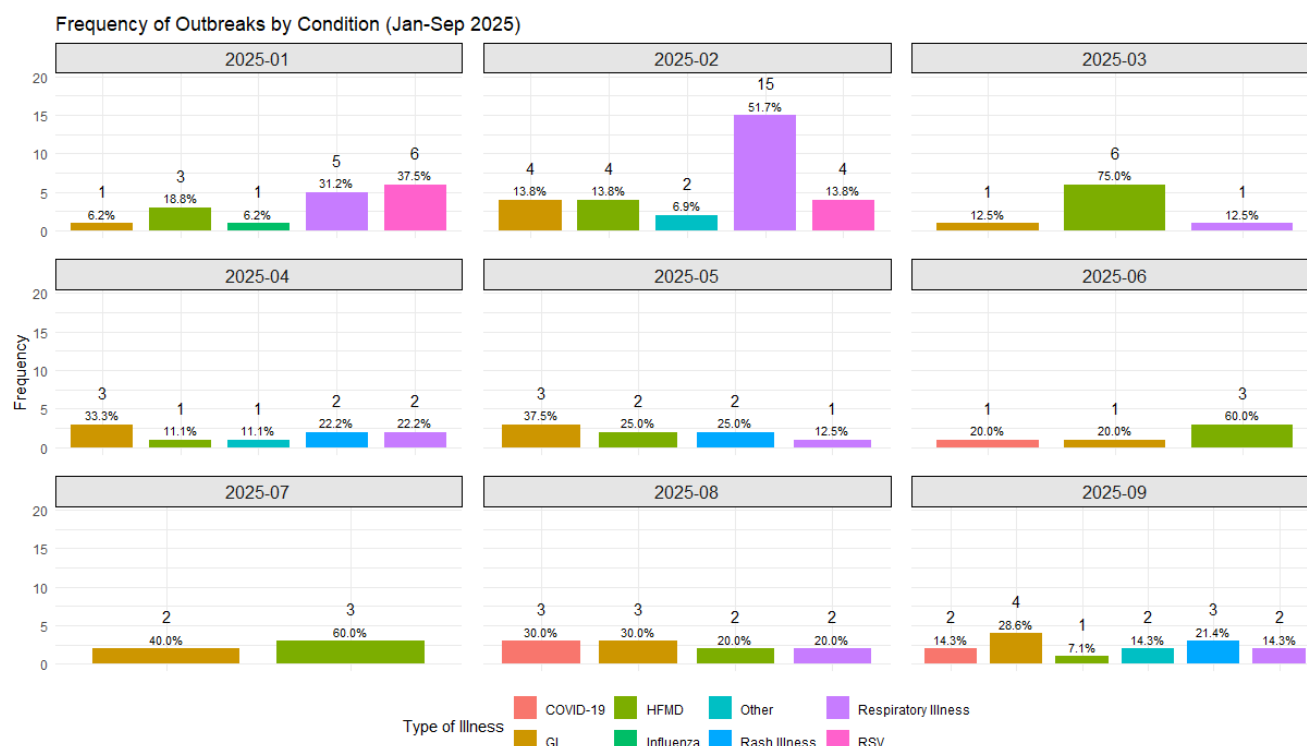


Outbreaks – There have been 14 newly declared outbreaks in September 2025; zero (0) influenza confirmed, two (2) respiratory illness of unconfirmed etiology, two (2) COVID-19, four (4) gastrointestinal, one (1) hand, foot, and mouth disease, three (3) rash illness of unconfirmed etiology, and two (2) other.

Table 1: Number of Outbreaks Declared by Type and Month, 2025												
Type	Jan	Feb	March	April	May	June	July	Aug	Sept	Oct	Nov	Dec
Gastrointestinal Illness	1	4	1	3	3	1	2	3	4			
Respiratory Illness	11	19	1	2	1	0	0	2	2			
Influenza Confirmed	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0			
COVID-19 Confirmed	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	3	2			
Rash Illness	3	4	6	3	4	3	3	2	4			
Other	0	2	0	1	0	0	0	0	2			
Total	16	29	8	9	8	5	5	10	14			

Note1: Data obtained as of Sept 30, 2025, at the time of this report, and will be revised in the next report if there are updates.
Note2: Respiratory illnesses include RSV outbreaks. Note3: 'Other' in February 2025, April 2025, and Sept 2025 includes outbreaks with multiple etiologies.

Fig 3. Monthly Outbreaks by Condition from January 1, 2025, to September 30, 2025, in Washoe County



Note 1: Data as of Sept 30th, 2025.

Epi News – Epi News is a brief (1-3 page) newsletter that has been produced and disseminated by the Epidemiology Program since 1997. Epi News publications are emailed and faxed to 700-800 subscribers,

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are topic dependent, and are available at <https://www.nnph.org/programs-and-services/ephp/communicable-diseases-and-epidemiology/epi-news/index.php>.

In September, there were six (6) Epi News newsletters published:

- **2025 – 2026 Respiratory Virus Season:** Prior to the start of the new respiratory season, an Epi News is released to summarize the recommendations and updates for the upcoming year. This Epi News links to NNPH's respiratory virus surveillance program website and splits into several sections by condition: influenza, RSV, and COVID-19. Respective segments highlight general updates, vaccine recommendations, and general overview of clinical guidelines for vaccination by age or risk groups (e.g., pregnant women). Additional information includes general vaccine coverage for Nevada in comparison to the US as well as Washoe County rates. The final section includes a reminder about reporting requirements to the local health authority.
- **CDC HAN Advisory Ebola Outbreak in Democratic Republic of the Congo:** The CDC is monitoring the Ebola virus disease (EVD) outbreak in the Democratic Republic of the Congo (DRC) and sent out a nationwide health advisory through the Health Alert Network (HAN). Ebola disease results from infection with an orthoebolavirus, primarily found in sub-Saharan Africa. The mortality rate can be as high as 80-90%. The HAN confirmed there are no suspect, probable, or confirmed EVD cases in the United States or outside of the DRC at the time of the report. As a precaution, the CDC was alerting health authorities and providers about the risk remaining low for the public but also emphasizing considerations for clinical laboratories and physicians, particularly when assessing travel history. Additional details to encourage situational awareness about the developing situation in the DRC and where to obtain more information about ongoing recommendations for clinicians was provided.
- **Influenza Hospitalizations and Deaths:** This Epi News is a summary report about key findings from the previous respiratory season. It focuses particularly on the 2024-2025 Washoe County Influenza Hospitalization and Mortality summary about the severity of the prior season, particularly in preparation of public health action in the upcoming cycle. The data summary emphasizes the characteristics or commonalities of influenza-associated hospitalizations and deaths, and it provide links to the public dashboard where additional information can be found. Limitations and successes of the prior year also inform the community, providers, and healthcare workers about areas for improvement or areas of focus.
- **Plague:** Plague is a zoonotic disease caused by *Yersinia pestis*, a bacterium primarily transmitted to humans through the bite of infected fleas or direct contact with infected animals. In 2025, a person was diagnosed with the plague after being exposed to an infected flea in the South Lake Tahoe area. Plague is endemic to the Tahoe basin area. There are several types of plague, with pneumonic plague being the most severe, but most cases in the United States are in the bubonic

form. It can be treated with antibiotics. This Epi News provides additional background information, including education and prevention for persons in Washoe County to reduce exposure. Additional guidelines for clinicians on treatment and testing and provided, as well as reminders about how to report and reportable conditions.

- **Carbapenemase Producing Organism:** Since their discovery, antibiotics have saved millions of lives by effectively treating bacterial infections. However, over time, many bacteria have developed resistance to these vital drugs. Both the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) and the World Health Organization (WHO) recognize antibiotic resistance as a serious public health threat. In the United States alone, it is estimated that antibiotic-resistant infections cause approximately 2.8 million illnesses and 35,000 deaths each year. This Epi News provided an overview on trends, risk factors, and diagnosis and treatment options for carbapenemase producing organisms, which are gram-negative bacteria that are highly drug resistant and pose a significant public health challenge.
- **Unintentional Falls Injury:** Unintentional slips, trips, and falls are a major public health concern, representing the leading cause of injury and injury-related death among older adults in the United States and Nevada. In Washoe County, unintentional falls are the highest cause of reported injuries and a leading contributor to injury-related mortality, particularly among those aged 55 and older. This Epi-News delved into risk factors, signs and symptoms, diagnosis, treatment, and evidence based prevention strategies to mitigate unintentional falls, and additionally provided resources that the public and physicians can access.

Other Reports – The 2024 Communicable Disease Annual Reports has been published, providing summaries of all reportable conditions and trends, and can be found on Population Health statistical reports at https://www.nnph.org/files/phd/communicable-diseases/annual-summary/CD_Annual_2024_Final.pdf

General Communicable Diseases – During August 2025, there were 165 positive labs reported, with 44% resulting in a confirmed, probable, or suspect case. During September 2025, there were 151 positive labs reported, with 34% resulting in a confirmed, probable, or suspect case.

Epidemiology Program Cross Divisional Projects –

Extensively Drug-Resistant Organisms (XDRO) database – The Epidemiology Program built a database of carbapenem producing organisms (CPO) and Candida auris infections, both of which are now recognized as chronic infectious diseases and have the potential to spread from patient to patient as well as surfaces and are highly resistant to antimicrobial treatments. These types of infections are being closely monitored from CDC as emergent infections. Staff and tech services have fully integrated and onboarded two hospitals already, one of which is the largest hospital system in our jurisdiction, and Infection Prevention confirmed receipt of alerts.

The Statistics and Informatics Program has been working to automate future reports into a dashboard system for easier public access of data.

Foodborne Disease Detection Database (FD3) – FD3 is designed to fuel more rapid identification of potential outbreaks and improve trend data for foodborne illnesses. REDCap, a secure, web-based application, is the new electronic record system housing FD3. Migration of case report forms is underway, with the purpose of enhancing disease surveillance and epidemiological investigations. There are currently several conditions (e.g., salmonella) programmed into the system, with modification and testing underway to verify operability. A total of 10 conditions is being programmed in Phase 1. The system development is currently on hold due to the REDCap system being inoperable due to the cyberattack in the State of Nevada.

Animal Bite Reporting – Bites from rabies-susceptible animals are a reportable condition under NAC 441A. The Epidemiology Program is responsible for tracking potential exposures to rabies for humans, which requires intricate coordination within and between Washoe County agencies to (A) increase accessibility of reporting to NNPH, (B) streamline communication channels between interdepartmental stakeholders, and (C) improve capacity through electronic data capture, the Epidemiology Program input the baseline metadata into REDCap. The team modified the Case Report Form (CRF) for people with suspected exposures to rabies, standardized programmatic metrics, and expanded data capture for more rapid and accurate disease surveillance. This form has already undergone several rounds of testing to verify usability and validate workflows. Epidemiologists are collaborating with the Statistics and Informatics Program to link dummy data to an internal dashboard as a prototype. The overall objective is to expedite comprehensive public health response for timely assessment of prophylaxis recommendations, resulting in near-real-time analysis for cross-agency management. The system development is currently on hold due to the REDCap system being inoperable due to the cyberattack in the State of Nevada.

Sexual Health Investigations and Outreach

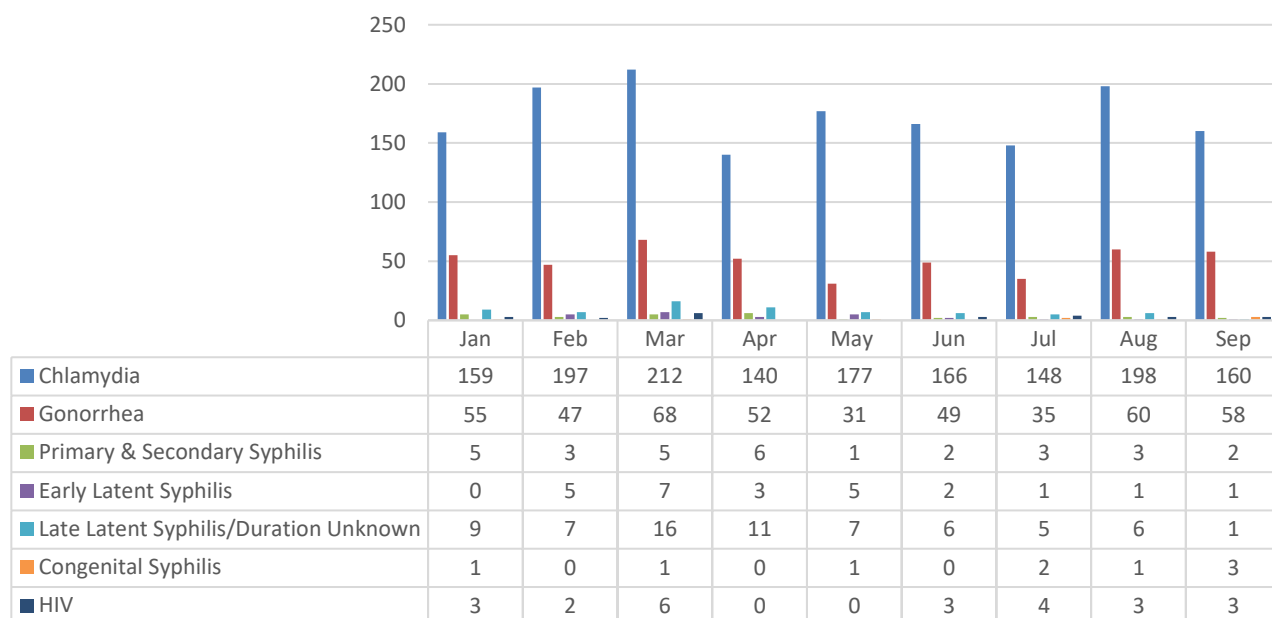
The Sexual Health Investigations and Outreach Program hosted a table at the Northern Nevada Pride event on September 6, 2025, where condoms as well as sexual health resources and education material brochures were provided by program staff. Staff also provided tobacco and nicotine cessation information to the public. In addition, the program's Public Health Supervisor was honored as the Grand Marshal for the Pride Parade.

The Sexual Health Investigations and Outreach Program continue to investigate chlamydia, gonorrhea, syphilis, and HIV cases, and are currently working through updated workflow to accommodate some staffing turnover and changes. These include redistribution of assigned providers that contribute to caseload, treatment verifications, assignment flow of daily newly reported cases, records requests, approval of cases to the state and CDC in the disease reporting management system and purchasing activities.

HIV staff experienced some delays in investigations and surveillance activities in September due to the Nevada state-level cyberattack. Currently, most systems have been restored, but staff are still working through the back up of reported labs from community providers.

Table 1 summarizes cases reported on the calendar year through September 2025. Case counts are dynamic depending on stage of investigations. Most chlamydia and gonorrhea investigations are closed within 30 days of report and syphilis investigations within 60 days of report.

Table 1: Reported Sexually Transmitted Infections & HIV in Washoe County, 2025 (Preliminary Data)



Public Health Preparedness (PHP) Program

September is National Emergency Preparedness Month. The District Board of Health adopted a declaration in support of this initiative at its September meeting. This year's theme, *Preparedness Starts at Home*, encourages individuals to:

- Know your risk
- Make a family emergency plan
- Build an emergency supply kit
- Get involved in your community

Throughout the month, PHP collaborated with the NNPH Communications team to share preparedness information via social media.

On September 4, 2025, PHP met with Washoe County Tech Services to develop a presentation for the Washoe County Emergency Preparedness Council (EPC). The presentation, delivered on September 25, 2025 introduced the *CyberReady Community Game*, a tabletop strategy game developed by CISA and

FEMA. The game promotes cyber preparedness by simulating community-wide responses to cyberattacks, encouraging collaboration and strategic investment in cybersecurity.

PHP continues to hold monthly meetings with jurisdictional partners, including the Central Nevada Health District, Nevada County (California), and the Quad Counties. These meetings foster relationship-building, open communication, and collaborative planning. The most recent meeting was held on September 18, 2025.

PHP and Community and Clinical Health Services (CCHS) are currently planning the annual Influenza POD, scheduled for Saturday, November 15, 2025. This event will serve as an exercise for mass dispensing and POD operations. The initial planning meeting was held on September 11, followed by a second meeting on September 18, 2025.

On September 10, 2025, PHP offered Point of Dispensing (POD) training to the Medical Reserve Corps (MRC), Community Emergency Response Team (CERT), and NNPH staff. Eight CERT volunteers attended. The session included an introductory presentation on POD operations, followed by the CDC's *This is a TEST POD* game. Attendees responded enthusiastically, expressing a desire for more time to play and an interest in participating in future sessions.

The State of Nevada PHP hosted its first-quarter partners meeting on September 11, 2025. This meeting provided an opportunity for regional partners to connect and share updates.

On September 15, 2025, PHP staff attended a Flood Preparedness Workshop hosted by the National Weather Service (NWS). The workshop provided valuable insights from subject matter experts to support emergency response efforts.

An "Introduction to Public Health Preparedness" presentation was delivered to Unitek Nursing School on September 19, 2025, as part of the school's Disaster Day exercise.

In partnership with TEEEX, PHP offered the AWR-160 course, *WMD/Terrorism Awareness for Emergency Responders*, on September 22, 2025, at the Regional Emergency Operations Center (REOC). The course covered Chemical, Biological, Radiological, Nuclear, and Explosive (CBRNE) hazards, use of the Emergency Response Guidebook (ERG), and strategies to reduce injuries and property loss.

PHP staff attended the Region 2 Regional Integrated Preparedness Symposium (RIPS), hosted by the State of Nevada from September 23–25, 2025, at the REOC. This three-day event combined the annual Threat and Hazard Identification and Risk Assessment (THIRA) and the Stakeholder Preparedness Review (SPR), with participation from emergency management, public health, law enforcement, and fire agencies across multiple counties and jurisdictions.

Healthcare Preparedness Program (HPP)/Inter-Hospital Coordinating Council (IHCC) –

The coalition has identified approximately 30 activities in coalition priorities for the fiscal year, reflecting a strong commitment to advancing regional preparedness and interagency collaboration. A recurring theme across nearly all provider types was the need for more interagency training opportunities. These trainings are intended to enhance understanding of how organizations work together during emergencies and improve overall coordination and response capabilities.

Mental and behavioral health remains a top priority for FY26. The coalition is focusing on increasing visibility and awareness around these issues to reduce stigma and encourage staff to utilize available resources. This emphasis aligns with broader public health goals to support workforce well-being and resilience.

To support non-acute hospitals and community-based organizations, exercise engagement has been prioritized. Tailored exercise packets have been developed and will be distributed throughout the year to ensure these partners are equipped to participate meaningfully in preparedness activities. Additionally, many facilities requested bi-annual Medical and Health Emergency Agreement (MAEA) training. Recent exercises revealed a knowledge gap in this area, underscoring the importance of ongoing education and reinforcement.

FY26 HPP Capability Assessments and HVA Template - The FY26 HPP Capability Assessments concluded on September 9, with a response rate of 48%, which exceeded the coalition's goal of 38%. These assessments are a grant requirement and provide valuable insight into regional capabilities and gaps. Capability 1 received the highest response rate, while Cybersecurity was the lowest, potentially due to the sensitive nature of the topic or limited collaboration with IT departments.

The Hazard Vulnerability Analysis (HVA) template, which was revised last year with input from the HVA workgroup, remains unchanged for FY26. Partners will receive the template within the week, with a requested completion window spanning late September to early October. This timeline allows NNPH sufficient time to compile and analyze the results to inform planning and resource allocation.

The Mutual Aid Evacuation Agreement (MAEA) annual revision is underway. The first revision meeting was held on Wednesday, September 10, with regional partners and stakeholders. Meetings are scheduled throughout the fiscal year with a planned completion date of March 2026 and an effective date of July 1, 2026.

The Multi-Casualty Incident Plan (MCIP) and Alpha MCIP annual review meetings have been scheduled with partners and stakeholders. The first meeting will be held on Tuesday, October 21. Revisions are anticipated to be completed by March 2026 with an effective date of July 1, 2026.

The Inter-Hospital Coordinating Council (IHCC) FY26 Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) was sent to partners on September 12. Partners are asked to complete an MOU every year to confirm awareness of coalition standards and ensure contact information is up to date. To date, 27 MOUs have been completed and returned.

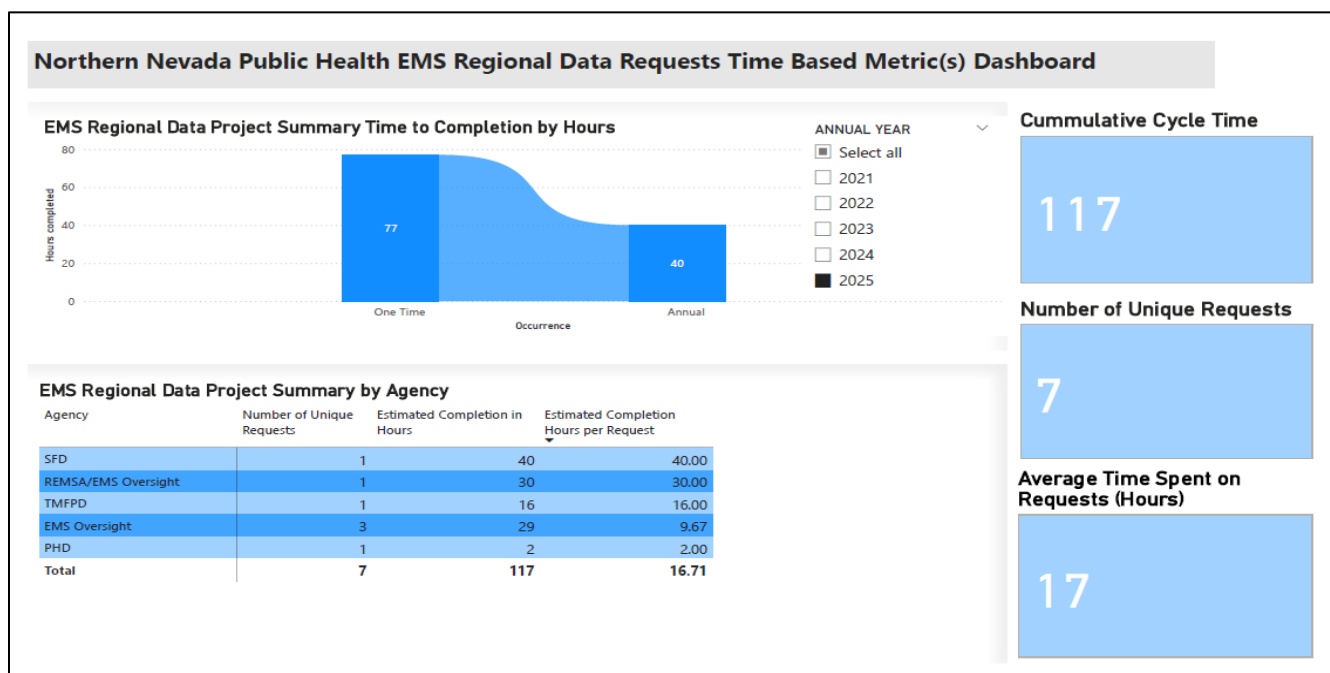
AWR-160 Standardized Awareness of Chemical, Biological, Radiological, Nuclear, and Explosive (CBRNE) hazards and the Emergency Response Guide (ERG) course was held on September 22. The course provided basic CBRNE awareness and how to prepare individuals to lessen further injuries or property loss in a CBRNE event. It also demonstrated how to use the 2024 edition of the ERG. Several hospital and CERT partners were in attendance.

Emergency Medical Services (EMS) Oversight Program

EMS QA/QI – EMS oversight program distributed the EMS annual report survey to gauge both the application and usefulness of the EMS regional performance data sections. Based on the survey responses, it was determined that reporting measures should focus on outcomes and evidence-based clinical metrics that align with national best practices. The oversight team continues to work with members of the Joint Advisory Committee (JAC) on proposals for best practices and establish a regional measure that evaluates clinical process, safety and reliability, and patient experience/outcome for EMS in Washoe County.

On September 17, 2025, the program welcomed a graduate assistant (GA) from the UNR School of Public Health. EMS staff will work alongside the GA on various projects, including EMS QA/QI.

EMS Data Request Dashboard – For September 2025, the program received one data request.



REMSA Health Exemption Requests -

Table 1: REMSA Health Exemption Requests FY 2026					
Exemption	System Overload	Status 99	Weather	Other	Approved
July 2025	1	-	-	-	1
August 2025	28	-	-	-	28
September 2025	9		-		9
Fiscal Year-To-Date	38	-		-	38

*The "Other" exemptions were approved under the Exemptions Guidelines of declared emergency for the Davis Fire.

REMSA Health Call Compliance – The franchise area is divided into response zones. The response zones will have response time compliance standards for all Priority 1 calls indicated below. Due to low call volumes in the separately defined response zones B, C and D, REMSA Health compliance response will be calculated in accordance with the Amended and Restated Franchise Agreement for Ambulance Service dated February 23, 2023, as combined Zones B, C, and D for all Priority 1 calls. Table 2 shows REMSA Health's compliance rate for FY 2026.

- Zone A – REMSA Health shall ensure that **90%** of all presumptively defined life-threatening calls (Priority 1 Calls) have a response time of eight (8) minutes and 59 seconds or less within the combined Zone A areas.
- Zones B, C, and D – REMSA Health shall ensure that **90%** of all presumptively defined life-threatening calls (Priority 1 Calls) collectively have a response time of; 15minutes and 59 seconds or less for the combined Zone B areas, 20 minutes and 59 seconds or less for the combined Zone C areas, and 30 minutes and 59 seconds or less for the combined Zone D areas.

Table 2. REMSA Health Percentage of Compliant Priority 1 Responses by Zones FY 2026		
Month*	Zone A	Zone B, C, and D
July 2025	91%	96%
August 2025	91%	90%
September 2025	91%	96%
Fiscal Year-To-Date*	91%	94%

*Fiscal Year-to-date is the percentage calculated using the sum of all to-date "Chargeable Late Responses" divided by "Compliance Calculate Responses".

Community Services Department (CSD) – Memo Review: The EMS Oversight Program staff reviews and analyzes project applications received from the City of Reno Housing and Neighborhood Development and the Planning and Building Division of the Washoe County Community Services Department, providing feedback as needed. During September, the program staff received four (4) and reviewed four (4) applications received in May and did not have any concerns that would affect EMS response.

Mass Gatherings/Special Events - The EMS Oversight Program received and reviewed zero (0) applications for Mass Gatherings/Special Events in September.

Chronic Disease and Injury Prevention (CDIP) Program

Cannabis Education – The CDIP Public Service Intern (PSI) completed the collection of survey data to identify public health efforts related to cannabis prevention and control currently being implemented in Washoe County, beyond those provided by NNPH. The survey also gathered perceptions of cannabis use and its impact on the community. The PSI presented these survey findings at a CDIP team meeting and facilitated a discussion on next steps based on the results. Key areas of focus included the importance of community messaging on the impact of secondhand cannabis smoke, youth prevention strategies, and education about the risks of cannabis use during pregnancy. Additionally, staff will be collecting feedback from cannabis dispensary management regarding their current requirements and practices for providing education to patrons and exploring whether the existing *Need To Know* cards NNPH distributes continue to meet those needs, or if changes are needed.

Staff also attended the 4th Annual Washoe County Youth Mental Health Summit at Grace Church on September 23, 2025. The all-day summit, organized by The Children's Cabinet and Renown, featured teen panels and presentations by subject matter experts on topics including cognitive development, positive childhood experiences and their mitigating effects on adverse childhood experiences, effective communication with youth, Medicare, and crisis behavioral health resources for teens. Staff made connections with the Washoe County School District (WCSD) Director of Student Services, Reno Behavioral Healthcare Hospital, and WCSD Family Resource Centers to follow up on Youth Vaping Prevention educational materials and support.

Injury Prevention – On September 9, CDIP staff led a senior workshop at The Fountains Senior Care, focusing on balance, stretching, and strengthening exercises to promote movement and reduce fall risk. The workshop was well received, and the facility's activity coordinator expressed interest in bringing the Enhance Fitness program to their residents this fall.

Staff coordinated a free Community Balance Screening event at Washoe County Senior Services on September 25 in recognition of National Falls Prevention Awareness Week. Community Health Alliance (CHA) partnered by providing high-dose flu shots and free medication consultations focused on fall prevention. In advance of the Balance Screening event, CDIP staff also attended a STEADI falls prevention screening training on September 17, hosted two outreach sign-up events, and promoted the screening through NNPH social media. These combined efforts increased access to preventive health services, personalized fall risk education, and community resources for long-term injury prevention. The event also generated additional interest and referrals for the upcoming Stepping On seven-week falls prevention workshop that will be provided to seniors.

Healthy Eating and Active Living – CDIP staff supported the Healthy Kids Festival in collaboration with the UNR Extension School on September 13, 2025. This fair promoted childhood obesity prevention through physical activity, healthy eating, and positive family engagement tools for low-income families with young children as they approach adolescent years. Festival stations offered hands-on learning, including (1) Nutrition Education: families learned about MyPlate, food groups, and built their own healthy plates; (2) Grow Station: Children explored where food comes from, with a focus on sweet potatoes; (3) Try Station: Families sampled a sweet potato–banana smoothie; (4) Physical Activity Station: Kids participated in an obstacle course with fun movement activities; and (5) Buy Station: Children used play coins to “shop” for produce. The festival reached 250 attendees, including 128 children with age ranges from 3 to 8 years old.

At the Nevada Department of Education’s Family Engagement Summit, the CDIP team presented a breakout session on Healthy Eating and Active Living on September 20. The session used guided dialogue to share tools, resources, and strategies for encouraging healthy behaviors in both home and school settings, with an emphasis on bridging the two. Six participants attended (five parents and one educator), engaging in discussion and feedback.

Program staff helped coordinate the first annual Wheels, Walks & Wellness event on September 27 at Paradise Park, in partnership with local service clubs (Optimists, Lions, Rotary, Kiwanis) and the Regional Transportation Commission (RTC). Families enjoyed community resources, pedestrian and bicycle safety education, and kid-friendly activities. The event supported CDIP’s goal of promoting active living among youth and families, drawing approximately 100 attendees.

Staff completed another round of fresh produce deliveries in September to Healthy Corner Stores in partnership with Reno Food Systems. This effort expands access to affordable, locally grown fruits and vegetables in underserved neighborhoods while supporting small store owners. Currently, three stores including 7-Eleven (Sutro St.), Go-Mart, and Vassar Market are carrying seasonal produce, including tomatoes, squash, garlic, peppers, cucumbers, and tomatillos.



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In the month of September, the CDIP team presented at two Reno-Sparks Indian Colony Head Start centers on family engagement and sharing tips and resources to encourage healthy eating and active lifestyles among families with young children. Approximately 30 individuals participated and engaged in discussions about practical tools to try at home.

Tobacco/Nicotine Control and Youth Prevention – In collaboration with the Nevada Cancer Coalition, CIDP staff partnered with Northern Nevada Pride organizers to implement a smoke-free event policy for the second consecutive year. Efforts continue to focus on addressing the disproportionately high rates of tobacco and nicotine use and exposure within the LGBTQ+ community, who remain targets of aggressive industry marketing. Smoke-free event signage was provided to event coordinators to support policy visibility, and approximately 150 attendees were engaged with tobacco cessation messaging.

CDIP facilitated a breakout session during Community and Clinic Health Services Division's Training Day on September 10, engaging 13 nurses and staff from family planning and sexual health clinics. Topics covered included current nicotine product trends—particularly among youth—tobacco industry tactics, best practices for the Ask-Advise-Refer model for providers, and available cessation resources. The session concluded with a discussion among attendees about updates needed in the Patagonia EHR to better capture information on nicotine product use among their patients.

Program staff are actively collaborating with Galena High School to address the ongoing issue of youth tobacco and nicotine use on campus. Initial discussions have centered on providing both students and staff with effective education and access to quit resources. In addition, the team is exploring the implementation of restorative justice practices through an Alternatives to Suspension (ATS) program. The goal of the ATS approach is to move beyond punitive measures by keeping students engaged within the school community. Rather than removing students from campus, the program aims to educate them on the specific substance involved, its impact on health, and the long-term consequences of continued use. This supportive approach empowers students to make healthier, informed choices moving forward. ATS programs help students develop skills to resist peer pressure, make independent decisions, and connect with cessation resources. By focusing on education and personal growth, these programs foster a sense of accountability and inclusion. As part of this initiative, staff shared information about evidence-based online intervention programs for schools. Additionally, the school's Dean of Students was invited to attend the *Parents Against Vaping* webinar held on September 23, 2025, to gain further insight and support in addressing this critical issue.

CDIP provided education at the Nevada Chapter of the National Hispanic Medical Association workshop on September 11th at Renown Mack Auditorium. A total of 26 physicians who serve families in Washoe County, were reached with Ask-Advise-Refer tobacco education, and free tobacco cessation resources for their patients.



Vital Statistics has continued to serve the public through the mail, online, and in person. Program staff also submit weekly records on decedent information for HIV/AIDS and a monthly update to senior services.

September	In Person	Mail	Online	Total
Birth	808	23	424	1255
Death	1702	16	459	2177
Total	2510	39	883	3432

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