NORTHERN NEVADA Public Health

P. 775-328-2400
1001 E Ninth St. Bldg. B
Reno, NV 89512
NNPH.org

Quarterly Report to the Nevada State Board of Health

Reporting Period: Q3 July to September 2026

Submitted by: Dr. Chad Kingsley, District Health Officer, NNPH

Executive Summary

This quarterly report summarizes Northern Nevada Public Health's key activities, accomplishments, performance metrics, challenges, and significant events for July–September 2026. During the quarter, NNPH strengthened emergency response and wildfire recovery efforts, advanced facility and workforce improvements, sustained essential clinical and regulatory services, and expanded community outreach and partnerships. The report is organized by division and highlights major public health impacts, measurable outcomes, and cross-divisional and interagency coordination. Information is based on District Board of Health meetings and associated staff reports for the reporting period.

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Administration & Strategic Planning

Key Activities & Accomplishments

- Organizational improvements: Advanced 9th Street facility modernization, Building C upgrades and clinic improvements. Addressed lead discovered during renovation of the former X-ray room.
- Communications and public information: Provided timely public health updates on cyclosporiasis, food safety, air quality, back-to-school vaccinations and wildfire impacts. Expanded multilingual communications and surpassed 14,700 social media followers.
- Funding and program sustainability: Secured or advanced multiple funding opportunities, including a $1.6 million SHARP award for Family Planning and Sexual Health through FY31, a $50,000 traffic safety award and additional funding for TB, maternal and child health, and air quality programs.
- Workforce development: Updated the three-year workforce plan, conducted employee engagement and competency surveys, increased required training completion to 98.23% by Aug. 31 and completed a successful three-year NDPS fingerprint audit.
- Community health and accreditation: Continued work on public health accreditation, school partnerships through 5210 Healthy Washoe, Fresh Connect vouchers for eligible ITCN-WIC participants and the Family Health Festival at Hug High School.

Key Lessons Learned

- Coordination matters: Effective interagency partnerships are essential for emergency response, recovery and delivery of public health services.
- Long-term capacity requires investment: Workforce development, technology, process improvements and diversified funding are critical to sustaining services and improving organizational effectiveness.

Significant Events & Interagency Coordination

- **Regional wildfire response: Supported the regional response to the Hawk, Bug and Stallion fires through Joint Information Center staffing, public information, air quality advisories and guidance on smoke, power outages and food safety.**
- **Wildfire recovery: Declared a Local Public Health Emergency related to recovery, resident safety and debris collection for properties with damaged or destroyed homes.**
- **Regional and state partnerships: Coordinated with REMSA, the EMS Advisory Board, the Nevada State Board of Health, the Washoe County Education Association and local government partners.**

- **National public health engagement: Participated in NACCHO360 and SACCHO leadership meetings and met with the CDC deputy director.**
- **Community and academic collaboration: Continued partnerships with UNR, Washoe County School District, Renown Health, schools and community organizations to advance public health programs and services.**

Priorities for Next Quarter (Q3 2026)

- Complete facility modernization and clinic improvements while supporting staff transitions and operational needs.
- Advance strategic planning, performance management, quality improvement and workflow modernization.
- Complete the annual public health accreditation report and use workforce survey results to guide the updated three-year workforce plan.
- Monitor grant opportunities and program funding while maintaining emergency preparedness, regional partnerships and community health initiatives.

Conclusion

- Q3 efforts strengthened NNPH's ability to serve the community through emergency response, public health programs, facility improvements, workforce development and community partnerships.
- In Q4, NNPH will focus on sustaining essential services, improving organizational effectiveness and advancing priorities that support the health and well-being of Washoe County residents.

Environmental Health Division

Key Activities & Accomplishments

- Food safety education and prevention: Conducted Food Safety Inspection Bootcamp training for more than 33 local establishments, along with Risk Factor Workshops and Active Managerial Control courses in English and Spanish.
- Regulatory oversight: Continued inspections, complaint investigations and enforcement across food establishments, temporary events, childcare facilities, pools, schools, public accommodations and waste management operations.
- Environmental protection: Advanced the residential well PFAS sampling program and supported drinking water system compliance. Silver Knolls' new arsenic treatment system began operating, marking an important step toward compliance.
- Program improvements: Continued developing Accela workflows for septic and well permits, updated school inspection processes and expanded outreach to real estate professionals.
- Workforce development: Supported staff training and professional development, including employees earning Registered Environmental Health Specialist credentials.

Notable Trends & Performance Metrics

- Inspections & Compliance: Conducted 2,237 inspections across food, pool, childcare, and school operations, while managing 59 foodborne complaints, 56 disease referrals, and 71 product recalls.
- Commercial Plan Reviews: Processed 488 submittals and completed 636 reviews with a swift 6-day average turnaround, consistently meeting regional goals at a 91% to 98% efficiency rate.
- Septic & Well Infrastructure: Received 228 residential plans—continuing an upward year-over-year trend—and completed 250 field inspections.
- Vector Control Operations: Tested 173 mosquito pools, conducted 110 surveys/treatments, and treated 12,550 storm drains through August 31 to mitigate public health risks.
- PFAS Groundwater Monitoring: Sampled 121 residential wells, with 39 of the 87 returned results detecting PFAS compounds and 21 exceeding safe drinking water maximum contaminant levels.

Challenges & Significant Events

- Wildfire Recovery: Supported recovery for the Bug, Stallion, and Hawk fires, focusing on drinking water impacts and hazardous debris/ash coordination.
- Drinking Water Disruptions: Managed pressure losses from the fires by issuing precautionary boil water orders, bacteriological testing, and extra monitoring.
- Food Safety Enforcement: Enforced actions against multiple facilities for repeat critical violations, including permit suspensions, closures, and office hearings.

- Staffing & Workload: Utilized leadership to cover septic/well inspections during staff absences, prompting plans for cross-training and workload redistribution.
- PFAS Communication: Developed public sharing protocols and geographic presentation formats for residential well results in coordination with the state.

Cross-Divisional & Interagency Coordination

- Wildfire Response: Partnered with the EOC, FEMA, and NDEP on fire recovery, debris cleanup, and drinking water system impacts.
- Drinking Water Oversight: Coordinated with NDEP's Bureau of Safe Drinking Water on system compliance, public notifications, testing, and PFAS data.
- Food Safety Response: Partnered with NNPH's Population Health Division and the State Public Health Lab on foodborne illness response and after-action discussions.
- Facility Compliance: Worked with Reno, Sparks, and State Child Care Licensing to resolve restaurant facility issues and investigate complaints.
- Regional Partnerships: Coordinated inspections for Hot August Nights and major events, maintaining outreach with real estate and industry partners.

Population Health Division

Key Activities & Accomplishments

- Conducted multiple emergency preparedness exercises and planning efforts to strengthen continuity of operations, emergency response capabilities, and organizational readiness.
- Enhanced disease surveillance and outbreak response activities, including respiratory illness monitoring, communicable disease investigations, and improvements to rabies reporting.
- Advanced EMS system oversight through franchise updates, strategic planning initiatives, quality improvement projects, and expanded use of performance data.
- Delivered community prevention programs focused on healthy aging, brain health, fall prevention, suicide prevention, and youth tobacco and vaping prevention.
- Provided public health support during regional wildfire incidents, including evacuation planning, shelter coordination, healthcare partner outreach, and emergency ops support.

Notable Trends & Performance Metrics

- Respiratory disease activity increased throughout the quarter as COVID-19 case rates rose during summer months - preparations intensified for the 2026-2027 respiratory virus season.
- Pertussis activity remained above historical levels, with confirmed cases and contact investigations continuing throughout the quarter, highlighting the need for ongoing surveillance and community outreach.
- EMS system performance remained strong overall, maintaining compliance with franchise standards, high inter-facility transfer performance, and continued progress on strategic plan implementation.

Challenges & Significant Events

- Managing emerging and ongoing communicable disease concerns, including increases in COVID-19 activity, elevated pertussis cases, and investigation of rising HIV case counts.
- Responding to multiple emergency incidents, including wildfires, while supporting evacuation planning, healthcare coordination, public information efforts, and emergency ops activities.
- Addressing workforce and resource capacity challenges within Sexual Health programs while maintaining investigations and prioritizing higher-risk communicable diseases.
- Navigating operational and system-level pressures affecting EMS response performance, healthcare preparedness planning, and long-term emergency readiness initiatives.

Cross-Divisional & Interagency Coordination

- Collaborated with hospitals, school districts, infection prevention teams, and healthcare providers to improve communicable disease preparedness and response.

- Worked closely with Emergency Management, CERT volunteers, and local government partners to support preparedness exercises, clinics, and emergency operations.
- Coordinated with healthcare coalitions, long-term care facilities, dialysis centers, and EMS agencies to strengthen evacuation planning and emergency communications.
- Partnered with community organizations, schools, healthcare systems, and nonprofit groups to advance prevention, health promotion, and public outreach initiatives.

Community & Clinical Services

Key Activities & Accomplishments

- Delivered high-quality, client-centered services across clinics, with client satisfaction surveys showing high ratings for staff professionalism, communication, and overall experience.
- Expanded immunization efforts through clinic services, back-to-school events, provider compliance visits, quality improvement projects, and stewardship of vaccine resources.
- Strengthened reproductive and sexual health services by securing family planning funding, expanding preventive care options, increasing HIV prevention capacity, and improving access through clinical workflow enhancements.
- Maintained comprehensive maternal and child health programs, including lead prevention, newborn screening follow-up, safe sleep education, Cribs for Kids services, and fetal and infant mortality review activities.
- Increased community outreach and navigation services through Community Health Workers, connecting residents with healthcare, housing, transportation and food assistance.

Challenges & Significant Events

- Workforce vacancies and staffing transitions created operational pressures in reproductive health and WIC programs, requiring temporary coverage strategies and recruitment efforts.
- The closure and consolidation of the Moana WIC office required significant planning, participant transition support, and continued efforts to maintain service accessibility.
- Multiple programs managed facility renovations, office relocations, and space reconfigurations while maintaining uninterrupted client services.
- Several grant-funded programs faced funding and resource uncertainties, requiring ongoing planning to sustain services and meet future community needs.

Notable Trends & Metrics

- Immunization demand increased, with 427 clients receiving 998 vaccine doses in August. FY26 totals reached 7,342 clients and 8,620 doses administered.
- WIC enrollment remained stable at approximately 3,600 participants despite the Moana office closure and transition.
- CHW services expanded, assisting 242 clients during the quarter (71 in June, 86 in July, and 85 in August) with healthcare and resource navigation.

Cross-Divisional & Interagency Coordination

- Partnered with schools, healthcare providers, and community organizations to deliver immunization clinics, health fairs, and back-to-school outreach activities.

- Collaborated across CCHS programs to integrate immunization, sexual health, maternal health, WIC, and Community Health Worker services for improved client access and care coordination.
- Worked closely with state agencies and healthcare partners to support vaccine compliance, tuberculosis reporting, newborn screening follow-up, and family planning services.
- Coordinated with hospitals, food assistance organizations, social service agencies, and maternal-child health coalitions to expand resources and address community health needs.

Air Quality Management

Key Activities & Accomplishments

- Maintained compliance with evolving federal PM2.5 standards while advancing planning efforts to support long-term air quality attainment and regulatory readiness.
- Continued comprehensive air quality monitoring and public education efforts, including ozone awareness, wildfire smoke outreach, and launch of the new Clean Air Connection newsletter.
- Advanced regulatory modernization by completing Food Establishment rule updates and progressing Dust Control regulation revisions through public review and stakeholder engagement.
- Processed permits, plan reviews, and registrations efficiently, supporting development activity while maintaining air quality protections.
- Conducted inspections, complaint investigations, and enforcement activities to ensure compliance with air quality regulations across Washoe County.

Notable Trends & Performance Metrics

- Washoe County remained in attainment with federal air quality standards, with only two ozone exceedances reported during the quarter and no PM10 or PM2.5 exceedances.
- AQMD reviewed 211 development plans during the quarter, maintaining a 97% year-to-date on-time completion rate for plan reviews.
- Compliance and permitting activity remained strong, including 5,363 wood-burning registrations processed, 119 Dust Control Permits issued, and 303 Permit-to-Operate inspections completed year-to-date.

Challenges & Significant Events

- AQMD continued preparing for implementation of the strengthened federal PM2.5 standard amid ongoing court actions and evolving federal regulatory requirements.
- Wildfire smoke from regional and Pacific Northwest fires contributed to elevated ozone and particulate matter levels during portions of the quarter.
- Increased development activity generated high permitting and inspection workloads, requiring continued focus on timely review and compliance oversight.
- August compliance activities resulted in 12 enforcement actions, including 5 Notices of Violation and 7 warnings, reflecting increased compliance concerns related to regulated activities.

Cross-Divisional & Interagency Coordination

- Coordinated with EPA, Nevada Division of Environmental Protection, and local jurisdictions on federal air quality standards, SIP development, and regulatory compliance efforts.
- Partnered with the National Weather Service and local media to provide wildfire smoke information and public health guidance during smoke events.

- Worked with Reno, Sparks, and Washoe County building departments to review development plans and ensure air quality compliance.
- Engaged businesses, contractors, industry stakeholders, and community members through permitting processes, public workshops, regulatory updates, and public comment opportunities.
