



SAMPLE

February 27, 2008

Dear Sir or Madam,

In January of 2008, the Southern Nevada Health District began investigating reports of recent hepatitis C infection among several people who had undergone procedures at the Endoscopy Center of Southern Nevada, located at 700 Shadow Lane, Las Vegas. Through the investigation, we identified the use of unsafe injection practices which may have exposed patients to the blood of other clinic patients.

This letter serves as notification that you have been identified in clinic records as a former patient of the clinic who was placed at risk for possible exposure to bloodborne pathogens. **As a precaution, and in order to take appropriate steps to protect your health, we recommend you get tested for hepatitis C, hepatitis B, and HIV.**

It is not possible to determine specifically which people were exposed, but **all patients who received injected anesthesia at the center** have been placed at increased risk for exposure. As a result, we are notifying all people who received injected anesthesia medications between March 2004 and January 11, 2008. Our investigation has identified that the infections were associated with the unsafe injection practices and **not** with the procedures themselves.

People infected with viruses such as hepatitis C and HIV typically do not have symptoms for many years, so you may have been infected and not know it. Even though you may not feel ill or remember getting sick, you should get tested in order to safeguard your health. Although testing cannot determine if you were infected at the clinic or by another source, knowing that you are infected is important, as there are treatment options available if you do test positive.

We recommend that you be tested at your own doctor's office, as he or she will be able to best advise you on what to do if you test positive. If you do not have a regular doctor, a list of resources is available on the health district website at <http://www.southernnevadahealthdistrict.org>. Wherever you choose to be tested, be sure to bring this letter with you and give it to your doctor. Information for your doctor is printed at the end of this letter.

We understand that you and your family may have many more questions or concerns with the information you have received. To help answer them, we have established a hotline at (702) 759-

P.O. Box 3902 | Las Vegas, NV 89127
702.759.1000 | www.southernnevadahealthdistrict.org

INFO (4636). The hotline will be available starting Wednesday, February 27, 2008. You may also obtain additional information on the health district website at <http://www.southernnevadahealthdistrict.org>.

NOTA: Para obtener esta información en español llame al (702) 759-4636 o visite el sitio web www.southernnevadahealthdistrict.org

Sincerely,

Lawrence Sands, DO, MPH
Chief Health Officer

To Health Care Providers: The patient to whom this letter was addressed has possibly been exposed to bloodborne pathogens during a medical procedure. The Southern Nevada Health District is recommending that this patient be tested for hepatitis B, hepatitis C, and HIV. To simplify testing, the health district has arranged for the appropriate tests to be available as a panel from major commercial laboratories. For information on testing, please see the technical bulletin entitled "Hepatitis C Exposure at a Medical Clinic" available on the "Hepatitis C Investigation" section of the health district website at <http://www.southernnevadahealthdistrict.org>. It is also available by fax on demand by dialing 759-1499 and requesting document #90802.