

STATE OF TEXAS, STATE OPERATIONS CENTER (SOC)

SUBJECT: H1N1 Influenza Preparedness

SITUATION REPORT # 7

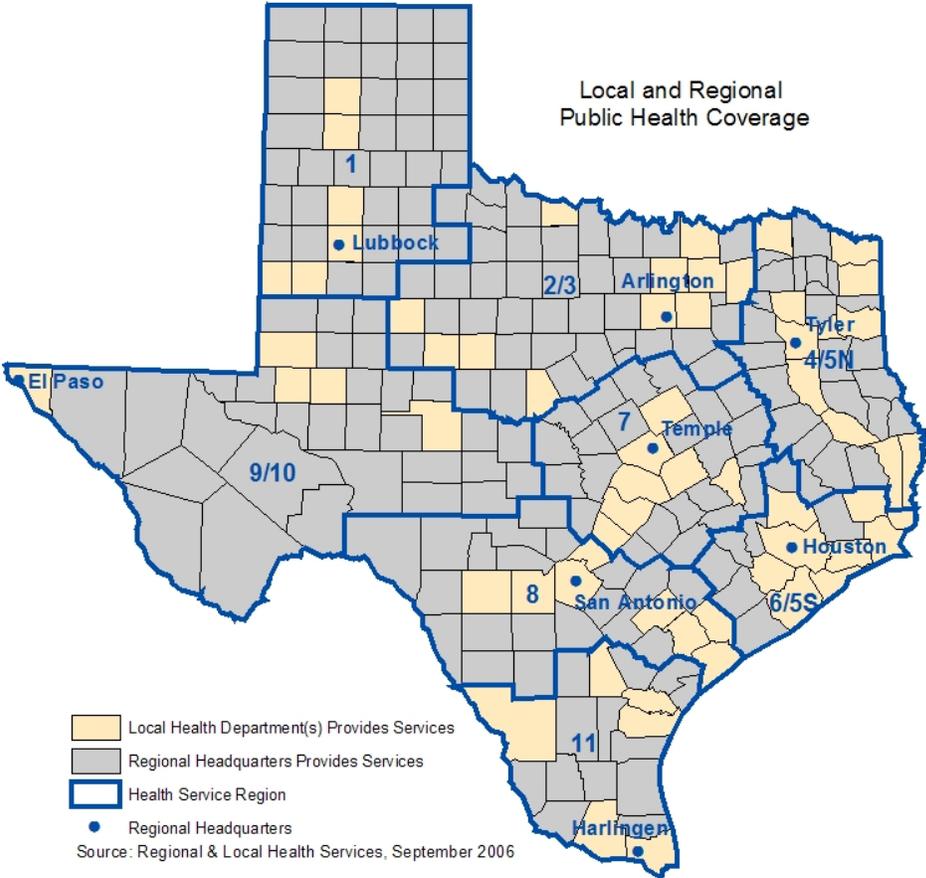
**DATE AND TIME COVERED: Thursday, October 15, 2009 through
Thursday, October 22, 2009**

CURRENT SITUATION: During week 40, influenza activity increased in the U.S. Forty-one states reported geographically "widespread" influenza activity, Guam and eight states reported regional influenza activity, one state, the District of Columbia, and Puerto Rico reported local influenza activity, and the U.S. Virgin Islands did not report. 4,093 (29.4%) of specimens tested by U.S. World Health Organization (SHO) and National Respiratory and Enteric Virus Surveillance System (NREVSS) collaborating laboratories and reported to CDC/Influenza Division were positive for influenza. All subtyped influenza A viruses being reported to the CDC were 2009 influenza A (H1N1) viruses. The proportion of deaths attributed to pneumonia and influenza (P&I) was above the epidemic threshold. Eleven influenza-associated pediatric deaths were reported. Ten of these deaths were associated with 2009 influenza A (H1N1) virus infection and one was associated with influenza A virus, for which subtype is undetermined.

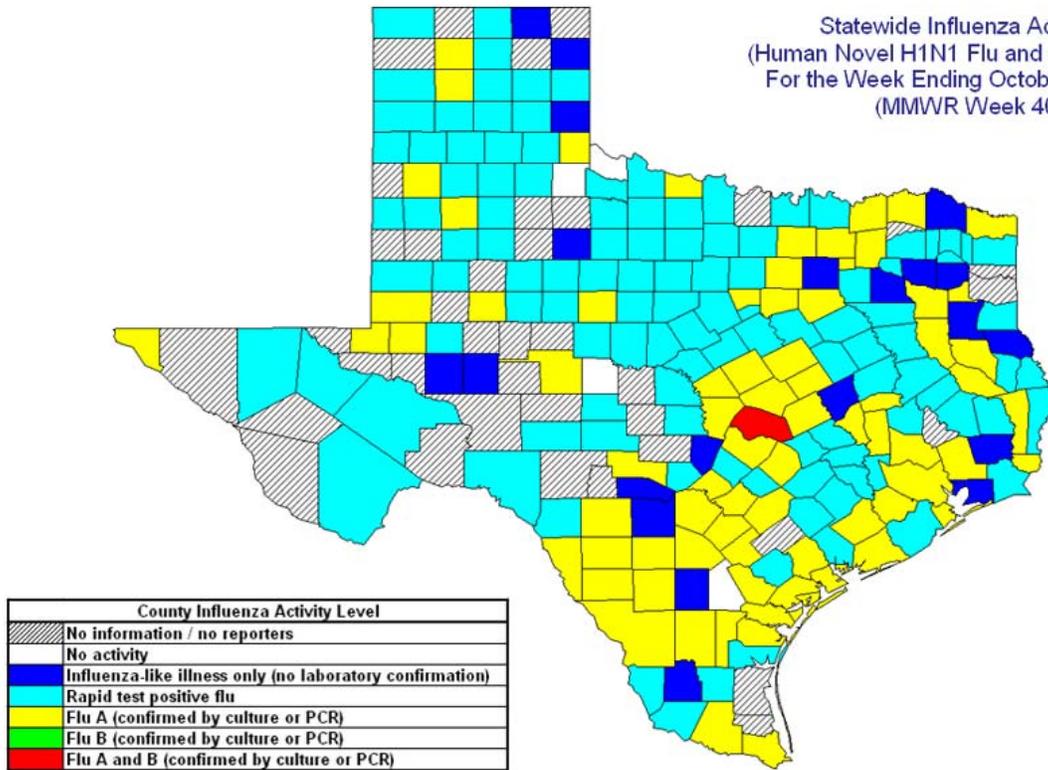
The influenza activity level for Texas for the week ending October 10, 2009 was "widespread". During week 40, 1,029 (31.8%) of specimens tested by the NREVSS laboratories in Texas were positive for influenza. The proportion of visits for influenza-like illness (ILI) as reported by Influenza-like Illness Surveillance Network (ILINet) providers in Texas was above the regional baseline during week 40. Fourteen hospital laboratories and public health agencies across Texas reported conducting a total of 3,239 influenza tests to NREVSS, sponsored by the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC). Health Service Regions (HSRs) 1, 6/5S, 8, and 9/10 reported an increased level of flu activity compared to week 39. HSRs 2/3 and 11 reported the same level of flu activity compared to week 39. HSRs 4/5N and 7 reported a decreased level of flu activity compared to week 39. The vast majority of cases seen continue to be mild to moderate outpatient disease. Severe disease continues to be seen predominately in individuals with underlying health conditions. Since the beginning of this pandemic in April, Texas has had a total of 82 deaths. The State reported one new influenza-associated pediatric death in week 40. The child was an 11 year-old resident of HSR 2/3 with significant underlying medical conditions. The child was not vaccinated for influenza for the current season. Texas has reported one influenza-associated pediatric fatality during the 2009-10 influenza season. There were 15 influenza-associated pediatric deaths reported from April 26, 2009 to October 3, 2009.

During week 40, several school closures were reported. Schools in Ellis (1 school), Freestone (3), Hunt (3), Hutchinson (1), Leon (3), and Wilbarger (1) Counties closed due to ILI. Four schools in Denton County closed due to ILI and influenza A. Three schools in Hopkins County closed due to high absenteeism. The closings have affected approximately 5,400 students.

Local and Regional Public Health Coverage



Statewide Influenza Activity^{1,2}
 (Human Novel H1N1 Flu and Seasonal Flu)
 For the Week Ending October 10, 2009³
 (MMWR Week 40)



Texas currently has 2.245 million courses of antivirals (1.77 million Tamiflu and 470,000 Relenza) from an original amount of 2,416,360 courses. A shortage of Tamiflu supplies has been reported nationally, but manufacturers are reporting they are operating at maximum production at this point. DSHS is monitoring this closely and advises that this will not affect the antiviral stock already in the State or the rest of the Strategic National Stockpile (SNS). 206 Texas counties currently have antivirals available and DSHS is working to expand the distribution system throughout the State for the uninsured and underinsured. Texas received 311,000 courses of antivirals, which were distributed statewide. Approximately 1,300 chain pharmacies in Texas have received antivirals. 265 chain pharmacies will receive antiviral stock in the coming weeks. Additionally, 56 Federally Qualified Health Care (FQHC) centers in the State have received antivirals. DSHS also is finalizing negotiations with independent pharmacies to receive antivirals.

The U.S. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention allotted an additional 454,200 H1N1 vaccine doses to Texas last week, bringing the total vaccine allocation for the State to 960,400. Last week's allotment included 233,100 of the injection type and 221,100 doses of the nasal form. Texas' allotment for the week that ended October 9 was 363,800 and included 235,000 doses of the injection type and 128,800 doses of the nasal type. Texas' allotment for the week that ended October 2 was 142,400 doses, all of it the nasal type. 960,000 doses have been allotted to providers, with some of it distributed to local health departments as a safety net to meet special needs in communities. DSHS has allotted the limited supply of vaccine to providers who serve pregnant women, children 2-4 years of age, children 5-18 years of age who are at higher risk of serious consequences should they get the flu and health care workers who provide direct patient care. DSHS expects the weekly availability of novel H1N1 vaccine to be low for the next few weeks. Initial vaccine quantities are not high enough for public vaccination clinics to be held. They are urging providers and the public to be patient. The CDC has recommended that all health care providers use the N95 face masks as a preventive measure against contracting H1N1 influenza when they are in close contact with patients.

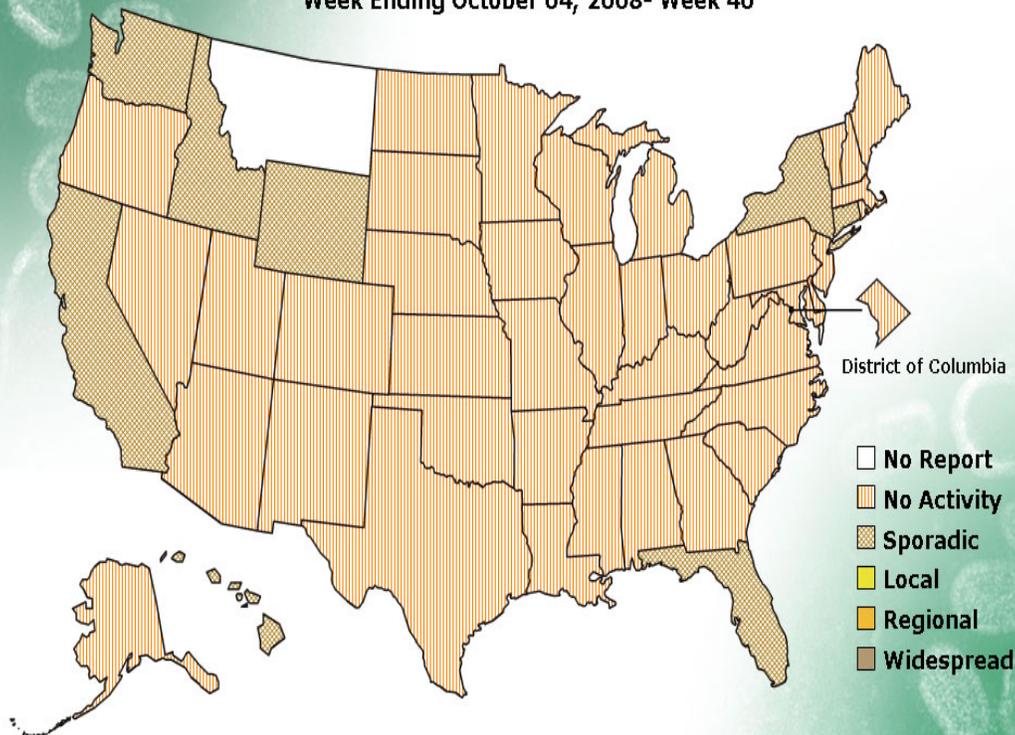
330,000 courses of antivirals have been distributed. Over 1,100 chain pharmacies have antiviral stock and DSHS expects to have antivirals in 265 additional pharmacies in the coming weeks. DSHS has advised that it is very important that the State uses available supplies appropriately. It is recommended that antivirals be used for those in high-risk groups for severe illness or complications or those who are hospitalized. Antivirals should NOT be used as a preventive measure in healthy individuals with no other risk factors.

FLUVIEW



A Weekly Influenza Surveillance Report Prepared by the Influenza Division
Weekly Influenza Activity Estimates Reported by State and Territorial Epidemiologists*

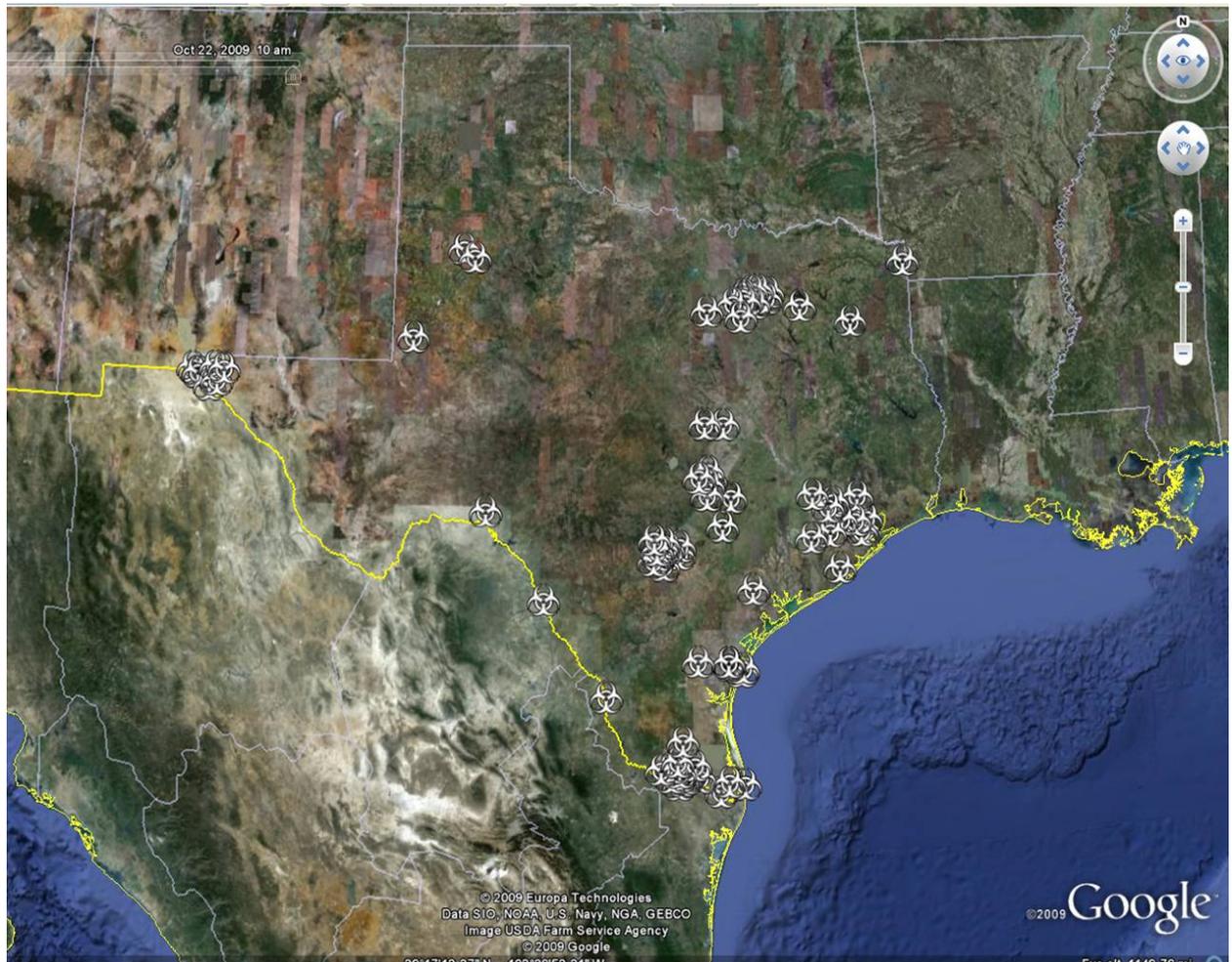
Week Ending October 04, 2008- Week 40



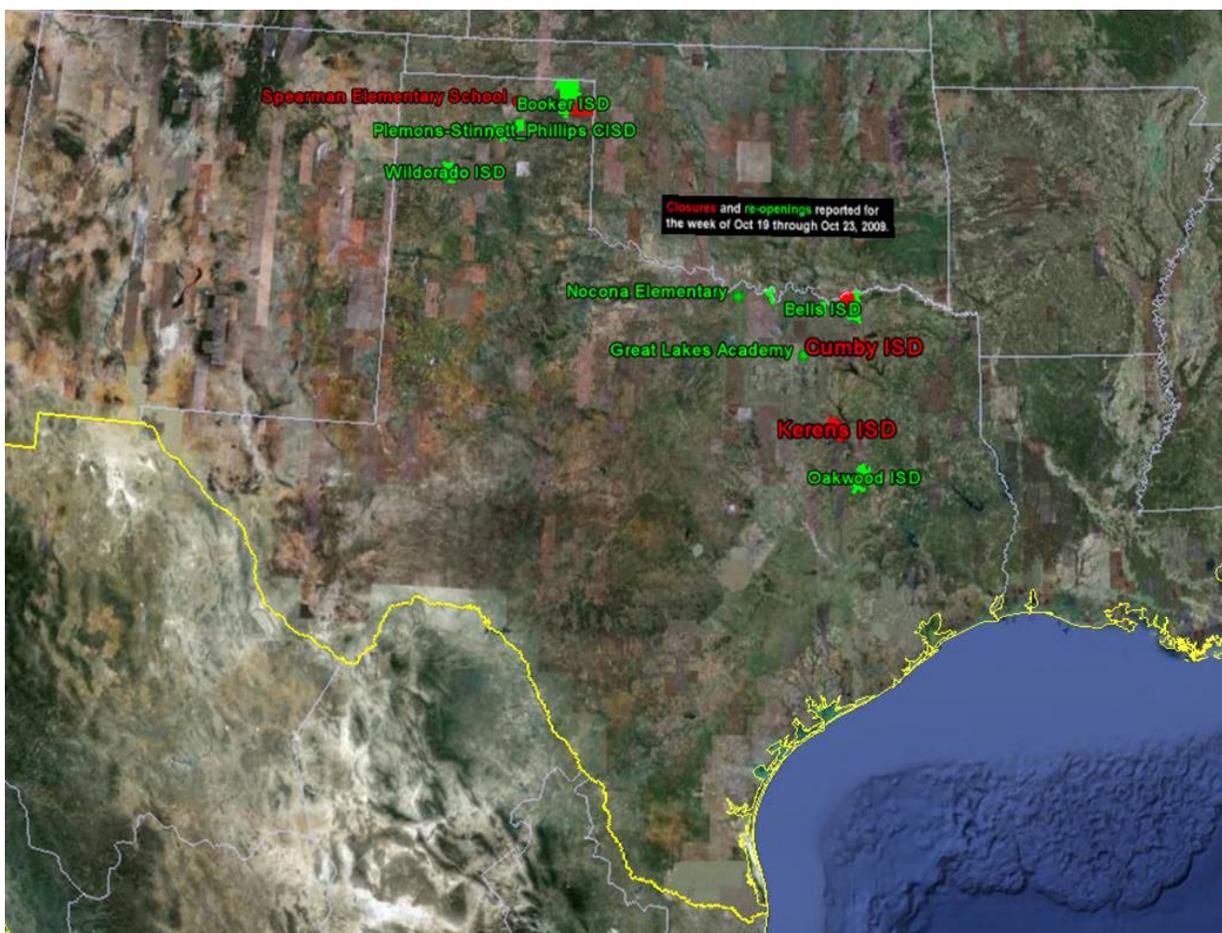
*This map indicates geographic spread and does not measure the severity of influenza activity.

As of Week 40, there have been 82 confirmed fatalities caused by H1N1.

Map of H1N1 deaths in Texas, as of October 22, 2009.



County Breakdown of School Closures and Re-openings due to High Absenteeism related to Flu-like Illnesses and Accompanying Map.



Collin County: Great Lakes Academy, a private school located at 6000 Custer Road in Plano, re-opened the school on Monday, October 19, 2009.

Cooke County: Sivells Bend ISD re-opened on Monday, October 19, 2009. (TEA)

Fannin County: Honey Grove ISD re-opened on Monday, October 19, 2009. Sam Rayburn ISD closed on Wednesday, October 21, 2009 and plans to re-open on Monday, October 26, 2009. (RLO 1A, TEA)

Grayson County: Bells ISD re-opened on Monday, October 19, 2009. (RLO Sub 1A)

Hansford County: Gus Birdwell Elementary in Spearman ISD closed on Thursday, October 22, 2009 and plans to re-open on Monday, October 26, 2009. (TEA)

Henderson County: Trinidad ISD closed on Tuesday, October 20 due to flu-like illness, and plans to re-open on Wednesday, October 28, 2009. 251 students are affected. (RLO 6C, TEA)

Hopkins County: Cumby ISD closed on Wednesday, October 21, 2009 and plans to re-open on Monday, October 26, 2009, due to flu-like illnesses. (RLO 1B, TEA)

Hutchinson County: West Texas Middle School in Plemons-Stinnett-Phillips CISD re-opened on Monday, October 19, 2009. (TEA)

Leon County: Oakwood ISD re-opened on Tuesday, October 20, 2009. (TEA)

Lipscomb County: Darrrouzett ISD re-opened on Monday, October 19, 2009. Booker ISD re-opened on Tuesday, October 20, 2009. (TEA)

Montague County: Nocona Elementary School in the City of Nocona re-opened on Monday, October 19, 2009. (TEA)

Navarro County: Kerens Elementary School in Kerens ISD closed on Monday, October 19, 2009 and is scheduled to re-open on Tuesday, October 27, 2009. The decision was made to close the elementary school after attendance dropped to 75% last Friday. Kerens Middle School in Kerens ISD closed on Tuesday, October 20, 2009 and is scheduled to re-open on Tuesday, October 27, 2009. The middle school's attendance was 79% by noon on Monday. Slightly more than 87% of high school students were in class on Monday. Additional information was received on Wednesday that Kerens ISD will close on Thursday, October 22 and plans to re-open on Monday, October 26, 2009, due to closing of the high school after closing both the elementary and middle schools. The ISD ordered cases of bleach wipes to issue to teachers, and janitors have been cleaning doorknobs and water fountains regularly. Additionally, crews worked on Saturday to disinfect the schools. (RLO 6C, TEA)

Oldham County: Wildorado ISD re-opened on Monday, October 19, 2009. (TEA)

McLennan County: Waco-McLennan County Public Health District (PHD) reported that, for the week of October 11-17, 2009, the number of flu cases reported in McLennan County was 485. (RLO 6A, Waco-McLennan PHD)

2-1-1 Texas: During the week of October 14-20, 2009, 2-1-1 Texas took a total of 7,009 calls. 4,136 calls were for Information and Referral (I&R) and 2,873 calls were for the Medical Call Center. Primary referrals (met needs) were for antiviral information. Top unmet needs were for vaccine and flu shot information. Houston, Dallas, and Austin were the cities with the highest call volume.

Texas AgriLife Extension Service (ALEXT): To support the Department of State Health Services H1N1 public information and education, ALEXT has activated its public health educators who serve as Family and Consumer Sciences County Extension agents across all rural and urban Texas counties and Extension specialists in the Family Development and Resource Management Department in College Station. The agency has also activated animal science, veterinary medicine and agricultural communications specialists to support Texas Animal Health Commission, Texas Department of Agriculture and the Texas pork industry regarding public and animal health issues and best bio-security practices related to H1N1.

Department of State Health Services (DSHS): In order for providers to obtain vaccine, they must follow the registration and ordering processes outlined in the memorandum on the DSHS website. This memorandum will be updated as needed and posted on www.TexasFlu.org. Registration and ordering processes have been set up on an online system, and ongoing updates to registered providers will be communicated via email. To date, over 12,000 providers have registered to receive the vaccine. Over 5,000 (5,053) providers have been allotted vaccine. Providers who do not have internet access or experience difficulties with the online site, can contact the DSHS H1N1 provider call center toll-free at (877) 623-6274, Monday through Friday, 8:00 AM through 5:00 PM, Central Standard Time. TV and radio ads prepared in both English and Spanish are airing statewide and are posted to www.TexasFlu.org.

Seasonal vaccines are available in injection and nasal spray form, recommended for those who are 6 months and older, and takes about two weeks to become effective. It is highly recommended that the following groups be vaccinated as soon as possible:

- Children aged 6 months up to their 19th birthday
- Pregnant women
- People 50 years of age and older
- People of any age with certain chronic medical conditions
- People who live in nursing homes and other long-term care facilities
- People who live with or care for those at high risk for complications from flu, including:
 - Health care workers
 - Household contacts of persons at high risk for complications from the flu
 - Household contacts and out of home caregivers of children less than 6 months of age (these children are too young to be vaccinated)

Information concerning seasonal influenza and H1N1 is available on the Department of State Health Services website at www.texasflu.org.

Texas Education Agency (TEA): TEA reported periodic closings during week 40. Seven campuses closed, affecting 1,324 students and 194 staff. There has been widespread absenteeism due to illness in some school districts. Waiver applications for missed instructional days and low attendance days below 90% of the average from last year are available. For additional information on waivers, contact the TEA Waivers Division at 512-463-5917. Downloadable flu prevention posters and flyers are available in English and Spanish on the TEA H1N1 website. Any information concerning schools can be found at www.tea.state.tx.us. This website is updated daily at 9:00 a.m., 12:00 p.m., and 5:30 p.m.

Texas Higher Education Coordination Board (THECB): Is in communication with the Texas Department of State Health Services and the Texas Division of Emergency Management concerning the 2009 Novel H1N1 outbreak and will continue to monitor the situation. THECB has begun the development of emergency contact lists for key personnel in all Texas Institutions of Higher Education. THECB urges institutions to submit their single contact person for the emergency contact list so they may forward them important communications. THECB reported no higher education institution closings. Last week, THECB posted a link to “Blueprint for Pandemic Flu Preparedness Planning for Colleges and Universities” on their website. This document was developed with support from the Gallagher Higher Education Practice Group, and also contains a World Health Organization (WHO) checklist for influenza pandemic preparedness planning.

Southern Association of Colleges and Schools (SACS): In the event that a public institution of higher education closes temporarily due to a concern regarding public health, the institution may request that the Southern Association of Colleges and Schools (SACS) grant an exemption from the contact hour standards. However, SACS has indicated that it is up to the individual institution to ensure positive student outcomes and that the letter is not required. If an institution chooses to submit the letter, it should contain sufficient information for SACS to ensure that the educational standards and objectives of the courses will not be unduly compromised by the limited number of contact hours. If an institution remains closed for an extended period of time, the Coordinating Board will work with the institution and SACS to ensure the best possible outcome for the students. An institution which chooses to submit the letter should address it to their institutional liaison from SACS or to the President of SACS.

Texas Department of Agriculture (TDA): Continues to monitor animal/livestock health and food safety issues. TDA urges School Administrators to obtain a waiver request to continue school breakfast and lunch supplemental programs during periods of school closure due to H1N1. This special program allowance may be invoked only upon the declaration of a public health emergency. To date, TDA has received applications for waivers from 155 of 1,200 Independent School Districts. To assist school districts with the application process, TDA has sent information to the schools. Texas Division of Emergency Management strongly urges local officials to contact their school administrators about applying for waivers for the “Square Meals” program, citing previous successes of the program in Texas. The forms and guidance

SFAs and COs will need to ensure their schools can continue providing meals in the event of an H1N1-related closure are located on the TDA Food and Nutrition website at www.squaremeals.org/H1N1. A waiver request and agreement addendum, if applicable, must be received and approved by TDA prior to meal service to allow for meal reimbursement. The forms must be completed and returned to TDA as soon as possible. Any SFA or CO requiring assistance in completing the forms can contact the TDA Food and Nutrition Division at 1-877-TEX MEALS.

Texas Animal Health Commission (TAHC): TAHC continues to work with DSHS, the Texas pork industry, and sister agriculture agencies on issues concerning public and animal health issues related to the H1N1 Flu. TAHC has response protocols in place and is also providing bio-security protocols through public information channels.

Information concerning seasonal influenza and H1N1 can be found at the below listed public web sites:

Public Health Information:

www.texasflu.org (Department of State Health Services)
www.cdc.gov/h1n1flu (Centers for Disease Control & Prevention)

Texas Education Agency Information:

www.tea.state.tx.us
www.tea.state.tx.us/waivers/waiverapps.html (Waiver Applications for Missed Instructional days and low attendance information)
<http://flu.gov/plan/school/>

Food Safety:

www.texaspork.org/News.htm (Information concerning pork safety)

School Nutrition Programs:

http://www.squaremeals.org/fn/render/parent/channel/0,1253,2348_2380_29978_0,00.html#29978

Higher Education Information:

The following guidance and resources for colleges and universities during the 2009-2010 academic year, is provided by the federal Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC):

- [Guidance for Responses to Flu for Institutions of Higher Education during the 2009-2010 Academic Year](#)
- [Technical Report on CDC Guidance for Responses to Flu for Institutions of Higher Education during the 2009-2010 Academic Year - detailed explanations of the strategies in the above guidance](#)
- [Preparing for the Flu: A Communication Toolkit for Institutions of Higher Education - information and communication resources to help students, faculty, and staff implement recommendations from the above guidance](#)

2. **AREAS AFFECTED BY EVENT:** Statewide

3. **RESPONDING AGENCIES/ORGANIZATIONS AND RESOURCES COMMITTED:**

Agency/Organization	Resources Committed
Texas Department of State Health Services (DSHS)	Multi-Agency Coordination Center (MACC) Activated
Texas Education Agency (TEA)	Assisting Independent School Districts
Texas Animal Health Commission(TAHC)	Monitor Livestock health
Texas Department of Agriculture	Monitor Livestock and feed production/School Nutrition Program Guidance for Independent School Districts during School Closures due to H1N1
Texas Higher Education Coordinating Board (THECB)	Assisting Higher Education Institutions
Texas AgriLife Extension Service (ALEXT)	Public Health Educators, Animal Science, Veterinary Medicine and Agricultural communications.
2-1-1 Texas	Call Center

4. **CASUALTIES:** 82 deaths in the State.

5. **EVACUATIONS:** None

6. **SHELTERS:** None

COMMENTS:

The Texas Division of Emergency Management continues to monitor the situation and will issue additional reports as necessary. The State Operations Center will conduct the next conference call on Wednesday, October 28, 2009 at 1:30 p.m. (CDT) to provide maximum situational awareness. The SOC is at Level I (Emergency Conditions) to support border security operations.

The four levels of SOC activation are:

- Level I (Emergency Conditions)
- Level II (Escalated Response Conditions)
- Level III (Increased Readiness Conditions)
- Level IV (Normal Conditions)

This Situation Report can be found on the DEM Homepage at www.txdps.state.tx.us/dem

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