

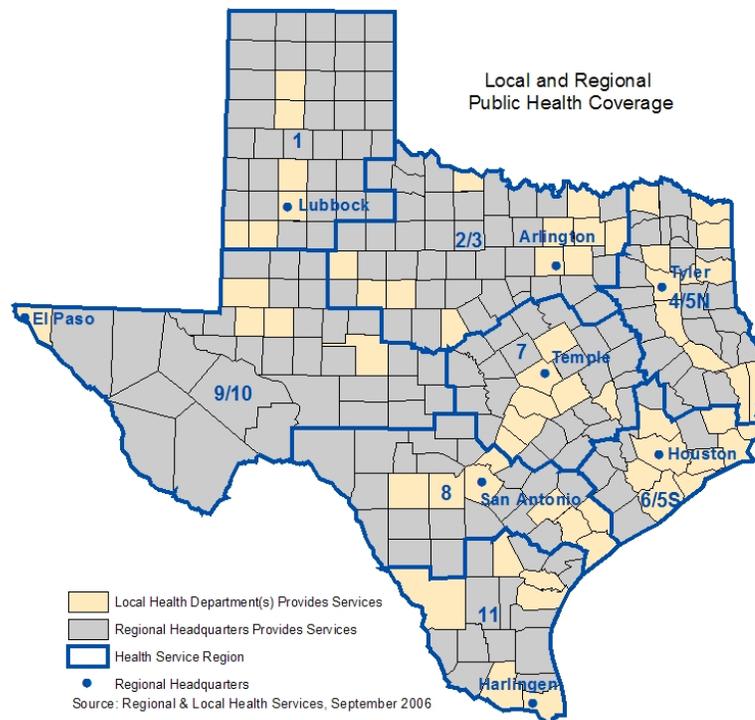
STATE OF TEXAS, STATE OPERATIONS CENTER (SOC)

SUBJECT: H1N1 Influenza Preparedness

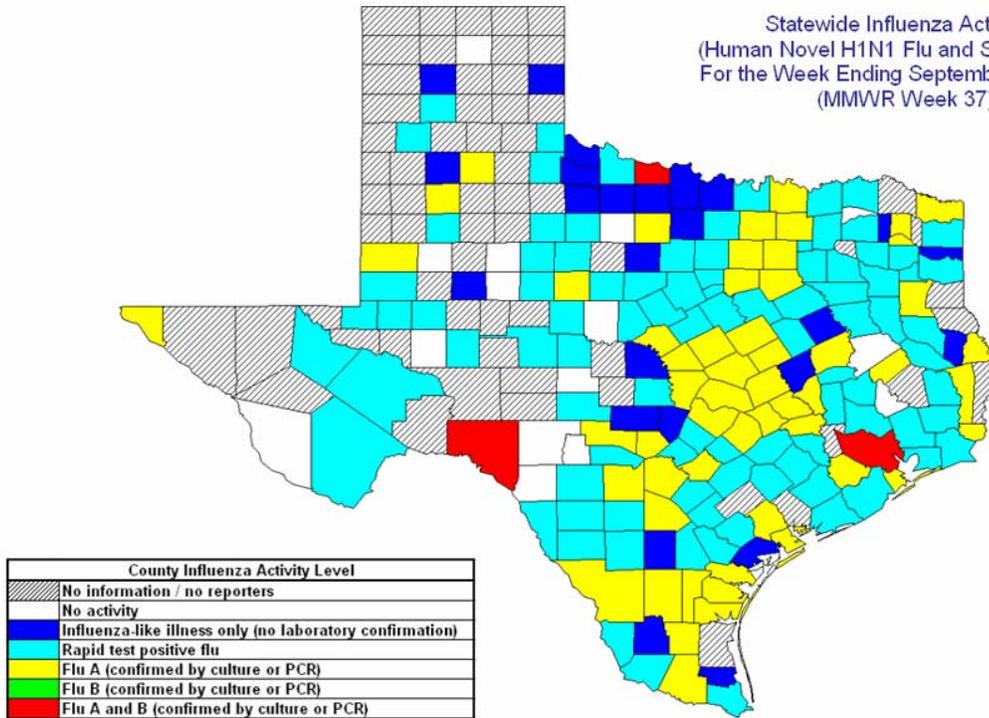
SITUATION REPORT # 4

DATE AND TIME COVERED: Thursday, September 24, 2009 through Thursday, October 1, 2009

CURRENT SITUATION: During week 37, influenza activity increased in the United States. Ninety-nine percent of all sub-typed influenza A viruses being reported to the CDC were 2009 influenza A (H1N1) viruses. During week 37, 907 (32.2%) of specimens tested by the National Respiratory and Enteric Virus Surveillance System (NREVSS) laboratories in Texas were positive for influenza. The proportion of outpatient visits for influenza-like illness (ILI) in Texas was above the regional baseline during week 37. Twenty-six states reported geographically widespread influenza activity. As predicted last week, Texas reported widespread influenza activity for week 37. Health Service Regions (HSRs) 2/3, 4/5N, 6/5S, 7, 9/10, and 11 reported an increased level of flu activity compared to week 36. HSRs 1 and 8 reported the same level of flu activity compared to week 36. 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 45 deaths. Three influenza-associated pediatric deaths occurred during week 37. All three children had confirmed novel influenza A (H1N1). Texas has reported 18 influenza-associated pediatric fatalities during the 2008-2009 influenza season. An outbreak of influenza A (including one test positive for novel influenza A) was reported at a university in Kleberg County during week 37.



Statewide Influenza Activity^{1,2}
 (Human Novel H1N1 Flu and Seasonal Flu)
 For the Week Ending September 19, 2009³
 (MMWR Week 37)

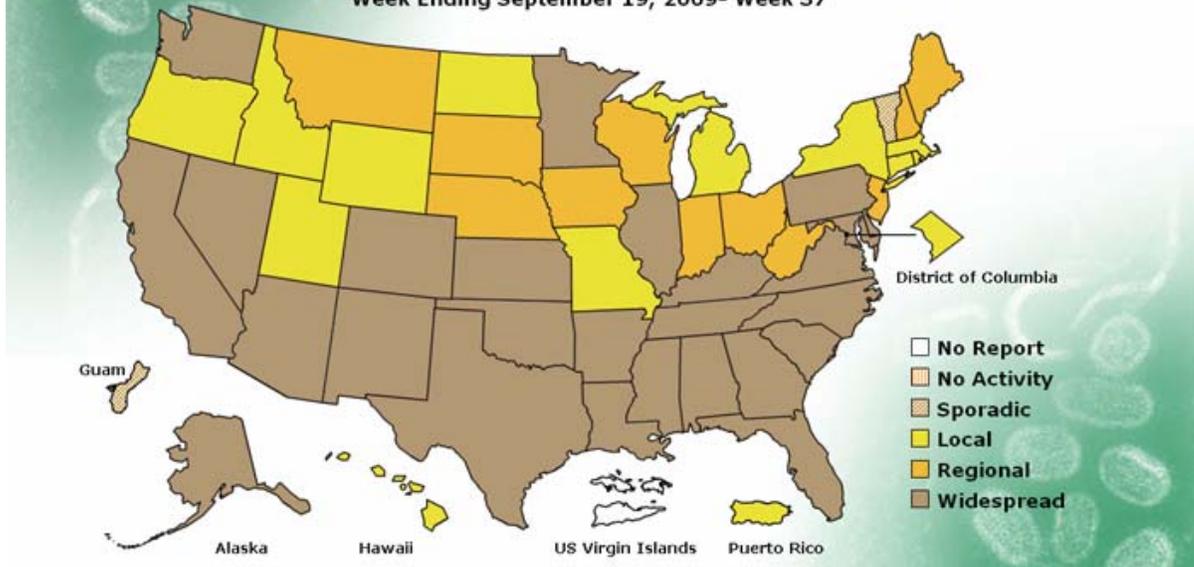


FLUVIEW



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

Week Ending September 19, 2009- Week 37



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. Shipments of antivirals to five additional retail pharmacy chains, which is comprised of 900 individual stores, will occur this week. Stock should be on their pharmacy shelves next week. Antivirals also have been shipped to the Federally Qualified Health Centers (FQHCs) throughout the State. There are over 60 FQHCs participating, and approximately half already have the state stock in their inventory.

Vaccine shipments will begin next week. The State can request a maximum of 436,000 doses on September 30th. The specifics of who will receive the vaccine will be finalized next week. Clinical trials so far indicate that only a single dose of H1N1 vaccine will be required for adults. Children under age 10 are expected to require two doses. Children under age 9 who have never had a seasonal flu shot will require two seasonal flu shots AND two shots of the H1N1 vaccine. There will be an ongoing monitoring of its safety after its release to ensure any issues are identified early. Approximately 3.4 million doses will be shipped to Texas by October 15th, followed by approximately 1.5 million doses per week. Some may be shipped next week, however, there is no report on the amount of vaccines the State may receive. DSHS will be coordinating the distribution of the novel H1N1 vaccine. As previously reported, the vaccine will not be distributed via the usual private sector channels, but will be made available through DSHS only.

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. Chemoprophylaxis is targeted to close contacts of cases that are at high risk or complications from novel H1N1 influenza or health care personnel, public health workers, educators, and first responders with unprotected direct exposure to patients with novel H1N1 influenza.

County Breakdown of School Closures due to High Absenteeism related to Flu-like Illnesses

Bowie County: New Boston ISD closed on September 28, 2009 and will remain closed through October 5, 2009 due to high absenteeism.

Collin County: Fairview's Sloan Creek Middle School closed on Monday, September 28, 2009 due to rising absenteeism from students with flu-like symptoms. Sloan Creek Middle School had more than 250 students out last Friday, September 25, 2009, according to the Principal. Lovejoy ISD School Officials confirmed that the classes for Monday were cancelled, and all extracurricular activities were cancelled for Monday and Tuesday.

Dallas County: There have been five H1N1 related deaths in Dallas County. All individuals had underlying medical conditions.

Grayson County: Collinsville ISD will be closed Thursday, Oct. 1, and Friday, Oct. 2 due to an unusual amount of absences. Classes will resume on Monday, Oct. 5. All extracurricular activities except for Varsity Volleyball and Varsity Football will be postponed until Monday, Oct. 5. Facilities will be completely sanitized during the closure.

Henderson County: LaPoynor ISD will be closed from September 30 through October 5th, due to high rate of absenteeism. This affects about 460 students and represents and represents approximately 21% absentee rate. There have been no confirmed cases of H1N1, but other viruses, and one confirmed case of chicken pox in kindergarten have been confirmed.

Jefferson County: Newest Jefferson County digital Billboard advertisement H1N1. The Hurricane countdown was replaced with H1N1 information. There are three digital locations in Jefferson

County: United States Highway 69 at SH 347, FM 365 across from Central Mall and Dowlen at old Dowlen.

Lamar County: Chism ISD was closed from September 29 through 30, 2009 due to high absenteeism.

Montgomery County: Huntsville ISD was closed from September 29 through 30, 2009 due to high absenteeism.

Newton County: Newton County High School, 414 N. Main Street, Newton closed on September 29, 2009 and will remain closed through October 2, 2009. Newton Elementary School closed September 30, 2009 and will remain closed through October 5, 2009. The middle school remains open.

Nueces County: Corpus Christi-Nueces County Public Health Department confirmed the death of a 12-year old with H1N1 flu virus. The child had no known preexisting conditions.

Tarrant County: Pantego Christian Academy in Arlington, Tarrant County, has closed due to multiple students with flu-like illnesses. The school will be closed through Friday, October 2nd.

Walker County: Huntsville ISD closed schools on 09/29/2009 through 09/30/2009 due to students and teachers out with the flu.

Tarrant County: Tarrant County Public Health (TCPH) released on Tuesday, September 29, 2009, that laboratory testing confirmed that the school-aged child who died Sunday had the H1N1 influenza virus. This is the first H1N1-related death in Tarrant County.

TCPH continues to aggressively monitor the incidence of seasonal and H1N1 flu in our community. We will continue to communicate with the medical advisory committee that we established earlier this year and other partners in the medical and public health community.

For additional information about the flu, check the Tarrant County Public Health Web site at <http://health.tarrantcounty.com>.

Questions regarding a reportable disease or condition? Contact the Epidemiology and Health Information Division:

- Main office number : (817) 321-5350
- 24-hour contact number: (817) 994-3708

2-1-1: Has partnered with the Texas Department of State Health Services (DSHS) to provide a H1N1 information line for medical providers and the public. Following is a breakdown of calls received this reporting period:

- KB indicates a total of 844 Information and Referral (I&R) calls taken for the reporting period from Friday, 092509 through Tuesday, 092909.
- Requests for Information
 1. Vaccine Information: 19 call records
 2. School closures: 3 call records
 3. Community Disaster Service Centers/Hotlines: 202 call records
 4. Influenza Control: 242 call records
- Total Unmet Needs: 73

- Unmet Needs Breakdown:
 1. Vaccine Information: 22
 2. Flu Shots: 22
 3. Community Disaster Services/Hotlines: 6
 4. Public Health Issues: 2
 5. Disaster Preparedness Information: 2
 6. School Closures: 2
 7. Influenza Control: 17

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 11,300 providers have pre-registered and the number could be as high as 12,000. Of those who have pre-registered, 7,700 have signed the provider agreement. 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.

DSHS continues to increase its communications activities for public awareness and has updated its website. TV and radio ads began last week and additional ads are being prepared in both English and Spanish. The messages will focus on basic public health messages (hygiene and getting both H1N1 and seasonal flu shots). TV ads will be 15 or 30 seconds and radio ads will be 10 or 15 seconds. Subsequently, these ads will be posted to www.TexasFlu.org. The next phase will include the development of materials such as posters and flyers that can be posted on www.TexasFlu.org and used by the agency's partners.

DSHS strongly encourages health care systems to promote the seasonal influenza vaccine among the health care work force. Recommendation to get seasonal influenza and H1N1 vaccine is NOT mandatory. Individual health care system employers may choose to enact stricter or mandatory vaccination requirements for their work force but DSHS would defer to their autonomy.

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 widespread flu outbreaks among students in school districts. Most students experienced mild to moderate reaction to flu-like illnesses and returned to school quickly and in healthy condition. A total of eighteen campuses and four school districts have been closed due to flu-like illnesses, affecting approximately 9,300 students and 1,500 staff members. 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. TEA recommends that when attendance falls below 85%, school officials should consider closing campuses and schools. TEA will be sending letters to school administrators regarding two school closure and re-opening forms to links on their website. TEA began elimination of the term “Swine flu” from web links on their website, and will continue to do so. 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. Public institutions of higher education may purchase federally subsidized antiviral medications through DSHS. Information and forms are available on the DSHS website. The deadline for ordering is October 16th. THECB reported no higher education institution closings. Many of the links on their website dedicated to higher education will continue to be updated.

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 61 of 1,200 Independent School Districts within 575 actual schools (out of 8,000 schools). 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.

4. CASUALTIES: 45 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 7, 2009 at 10:00 a.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

Jack Colley
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