

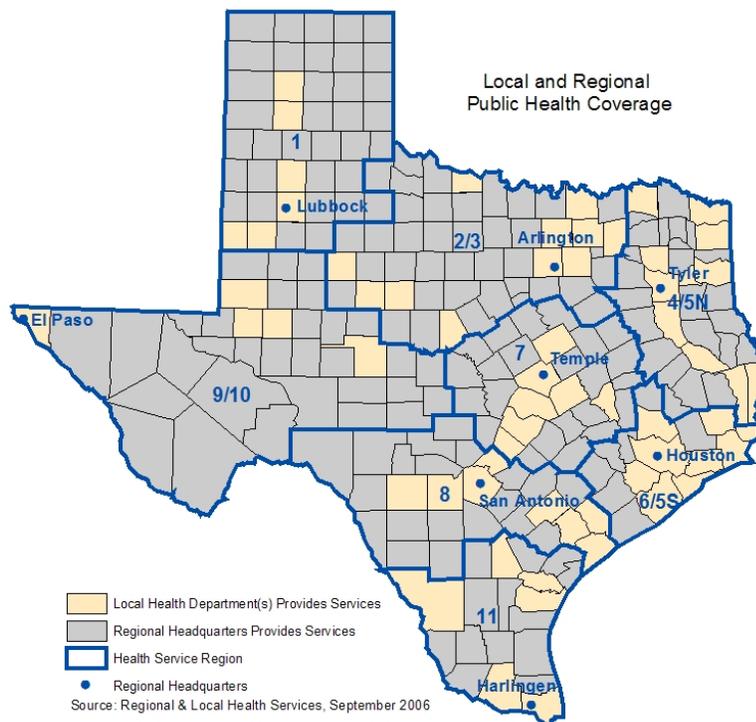
STATE OF TEXAS, STATE OPERATIONS CENTER (SOC)

SUBJECT: H1N1 Influenza Preparedness

SITUATION REPORT # 5

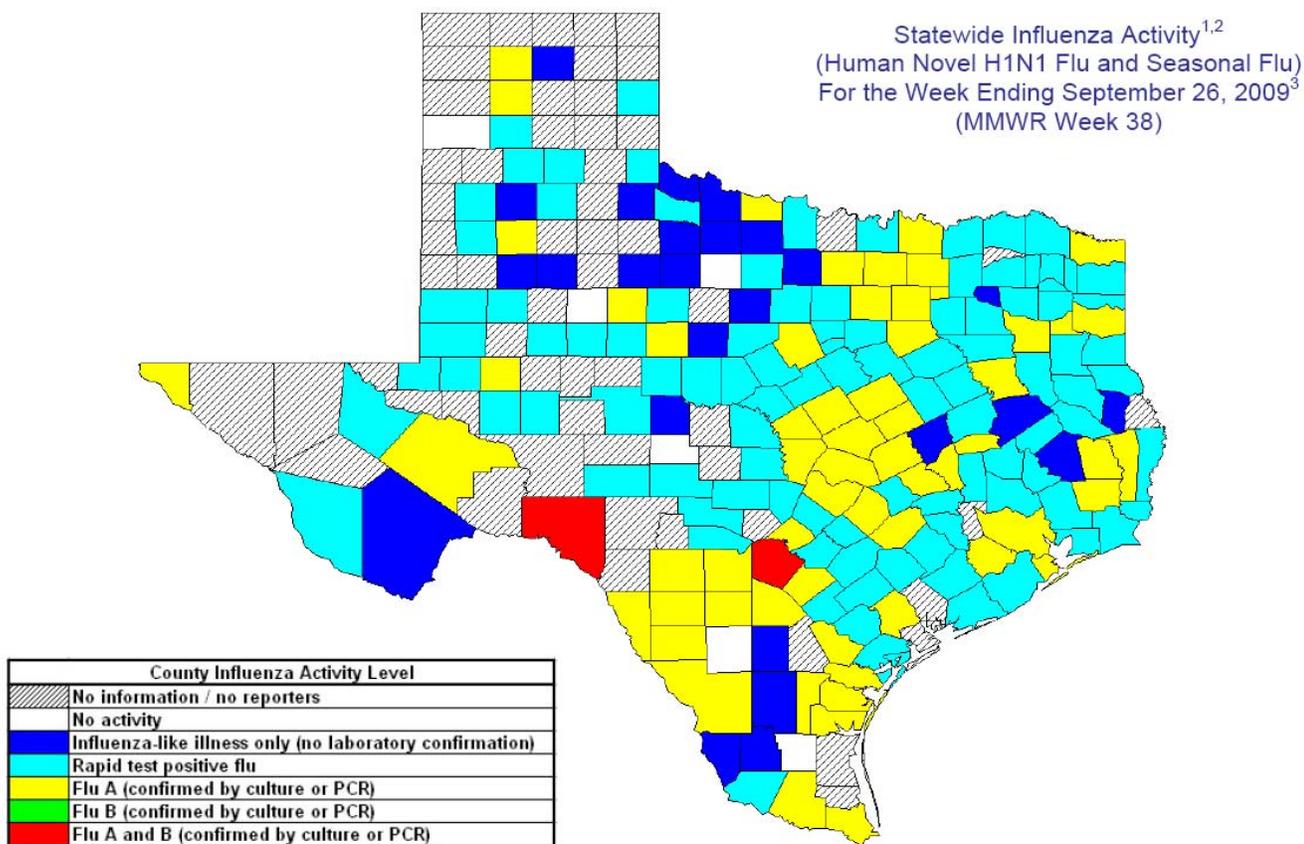
DATE AND TIME COVERED: Thursday, October 1, 2009 through Thursday, October 8, 2009

CURRENT SITUATION: During week 38, twenty-seven states reported “widespread” influenza activity. The influenza activity level for Texas for the week ending September 26, 2009 was “widespread”. During week 38, 817 (30.5%) of specimens tested by the National Respiratory and Enteric Virus Surveillance System (NREVSS) laboratories in Texas were positive for influenza. The proportion of visits for influenza-like illness as reported by Influenza-like Illness Surveillance Network (ILINet) providers in Texas was above the regional baseline during week 38. Ten hospital laboratories and public health agencies across Texas reported conducting a total of 2,678 influenza tests to NREVSS, sponsored by the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC). Health Service Regions (HSRs) for week 38. HSRs 1, 2/3, 4/5N, 6/5S, 7, 8, and 9/10 reported an increased level of flu activity compared to week 37. HSR 11 reported the same level of flu activity compared to week 37. 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 52 deaths, 7 of which were reported within the last week. Almost half of all Texas deaths (24 out of 52) occurred with victims between 25 and 49 years of age.



Texas reported four new influenza-associated pediatric deaths, a 3 year-old resident of HSR 6/5S with significant underlying medical conditions; a 14 year-old resident of HSR 8 with no underlying medical conditions; a 16 year-old resident of HSR 2/3 with significant underlying medical conditions; and an 8 month-old resident of HSR 8 with a significant underlying medical condition.

To date, Texas has reported 22 influenza-associated pediatric fatalities during the 2008-2009 influenza season. There has been a slight increase in pediatric deaths in children aged 4 or younger in the State. During week 38, several outbreaks of ILI and/or influenza were reported in the State. An outbreak of ILI and novel influenza A (H1N1) was reported at a daycare in Denton County. One Collin County school with increased ILI closed during week 38. A school district in Hopkins County re-opened in week 38 after being closed in week 37 and early week 38, due to influenza A (confirmed by rapid test). A school in Presidio County reported high absenteeism due to ILI. A Travis County nursing home reported a cluster of ILI among residents of the facility.



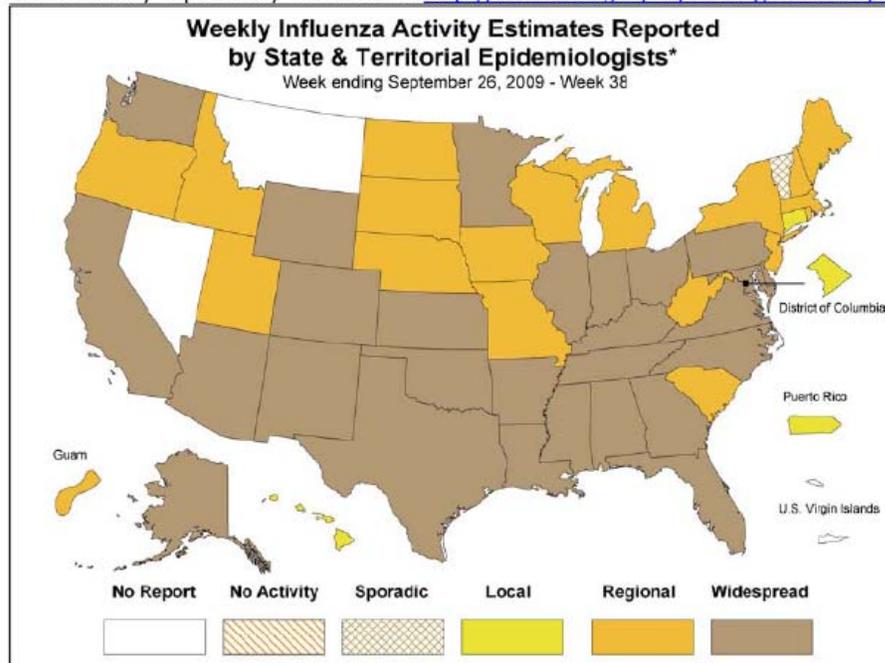
¹Influenza activity level corresponds to current MMWR week only and does not reflect previous weeks' activity.

²The majority of influenza cases are not reportable by law to the Texas Department of State Health Services. This map contains data from sentinel sites and does not represent all influenza cases in the state.

³Positive laboratory results are reported according to specimen collection date or date received in the lab if the former is unknown.

National Influenza Activity Map

The current U.S. flu weekly report may be found at <http://www.cdc.gov/flu/weekly/fluactivity.htm>.



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

For more information on flu surveillance activities in the State of Texas, please visit the following website:
<http://www.dshs.state.tx.us/idcu/disease/influenza/surveillance/>

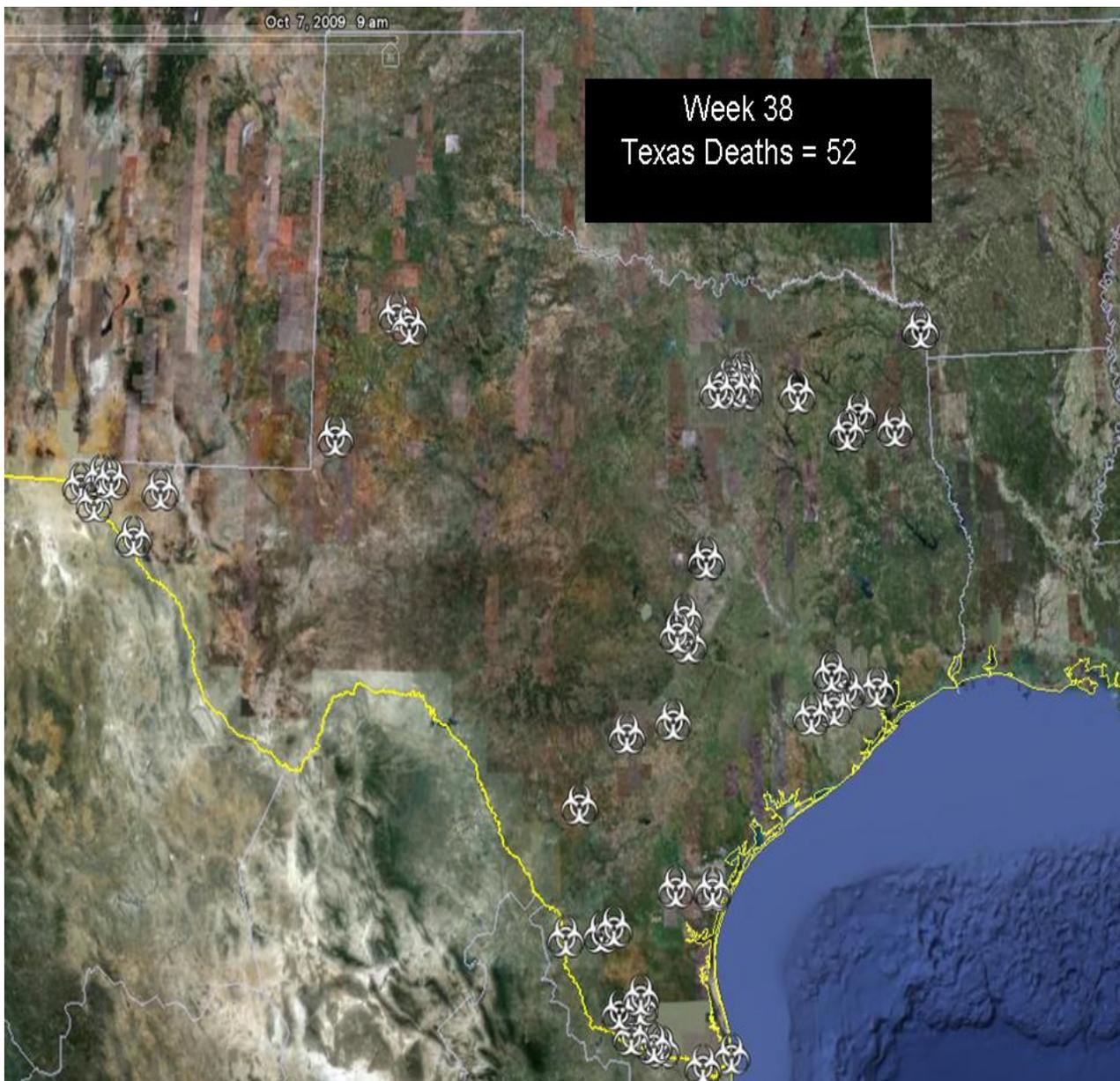
Texas currently has 2.245 million courses of antivirals (1.77 million Tamiflu and 470,000 Relenza) from an original amount of 2,416,360 courses. A shortage of Tamiflu supplies has been reported nationally, but manufacturers are reporting they are operating at maximum production at this point. DSHS is 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. Approximately 1,144 chain pharmacies in Texas received antivirals and expect to add 210 chain pharmacies in the coming weeks. Additionally, 56 Federally Qualified Health Care (FQHC) centers in the State have received antivirals. DSHS is finalizing negotiations with independent pharmacies to receive antivirals.

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.

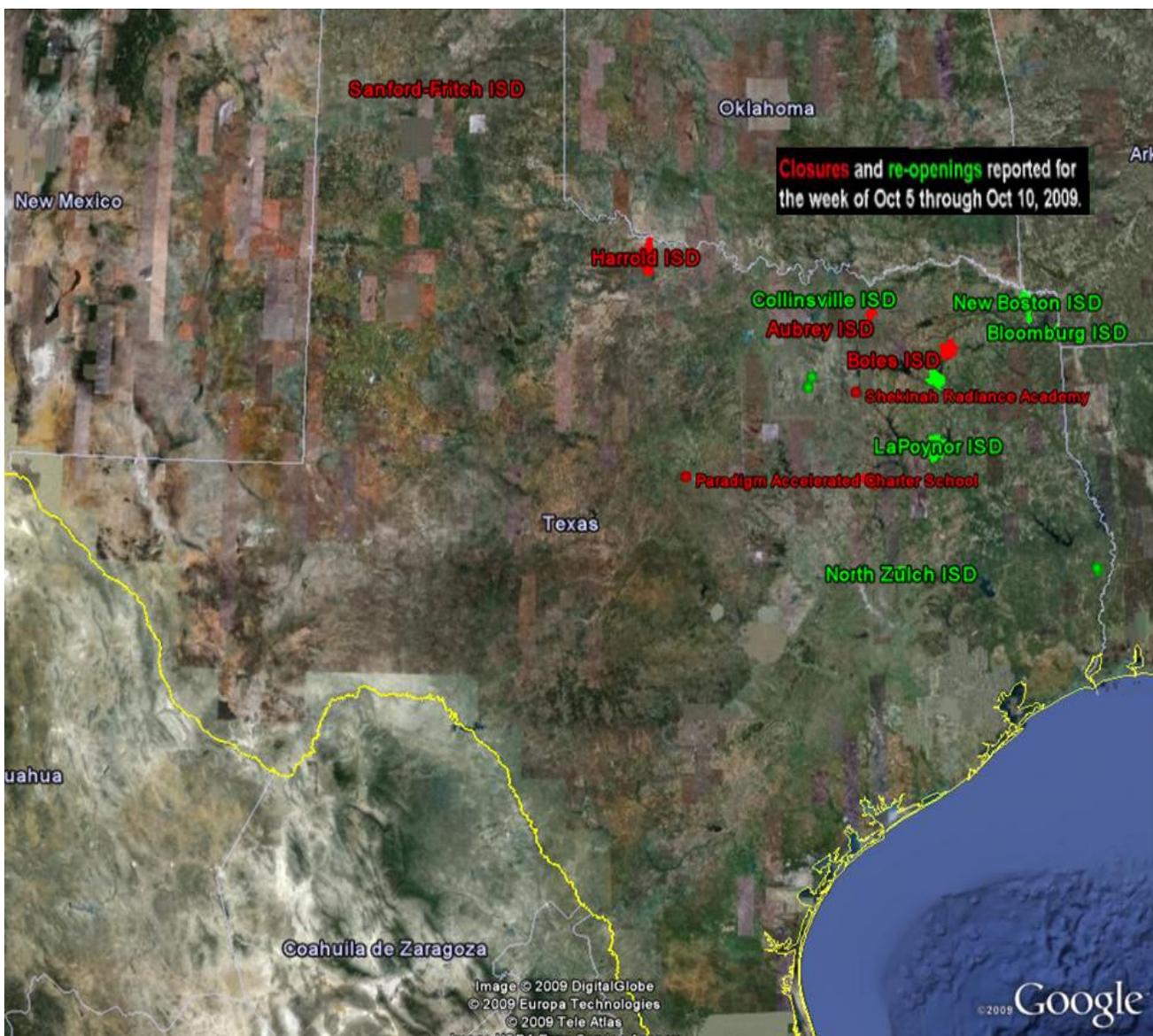
DSHS has advised that it is very important that the State uses available supplies appropriately. It is recommended that antivirals be used for those in high-risk groups for severe illness or complications or those who are hospitalized. Antivirals should NOT be used as a preventive measure in healthy 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.

As of Week 38, there have been 52 confirmed fatalities caused by H1N1.

Map of H1N1 deaths in Texas, as of October 2, 2009.



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



Bexar County: Shekinah Radiance Academy closed October 7, 2009 and will re-open October 13, 2009. (TEA)

Comanche County: DeLeon ISD will be closed October 8-9, 2009 due to influenza. The ISD was already scheduled to be closed October 12, 2009. Local newspaper reported that Paradigm Charter School will be closed until Monday, October 12, 2009 due to influenza. (RLO 5C)

Dallas County: There have been nine H1N1 related deaths in Dallas County.

Denton County: The Superintendent of Aubrey ISD in Denton County closed the school district, due to high numbers of student illness. According to the Director of Health Services, as of 10:00

a.m. Wednesday morning, one elementary school's attendance was at 77%, another was at 88%, the middle school was at 79%, and the high school was at 88%. As a result, a number of students were sent home. The ISD will re-open on October 13, 2009 (October 12 is an in-service day). The superintendent will be forwarding a letter to the Denton County Health Department's Chief Epidemiologist on Wednesday. The decision to close the ISD was based on TEA guidelines. Denton County Health Department did not advise the ISD to close. (RLO Sub 1A)

Fannin County: Trenton ISD closed October 6, 2009 and will re-open October 12, 2009. (TEA)

Freestone County: Wortham ISD will close October 8, 2009 and will re-open October 13, 2009. (TEA)

Hopkins County: Como-Pickton CISD will be closed beginning Wednesday, October 7, 2009 and plan to re-open Monday, October 12, 2009. Their attendance rate was 81% on Tuesday and was declining. (RLO 1B)

Hunt County: Boles ISD in Hunt County has closed due to H1N1 related illnesses. On October 5, 2009, there were 80 students absent out of an enrollment of 527 students. The ISD will be closed through Friday, October 9, 2009. They were already scheduled to be closed Monday through Tuesday, October 12-13, 2009 for Fair Days. (RLO 1A)

Hutchinson County: Sanford/Fritch ISD closed on October 7, 2009 due to low attendance attributed to illness. The ISD plans to re-open on Monday, October 12, 2009. (RLO 5B)

Madison County: North Zulch ISD, which has approximately 353 students, is closed and planned to re-open on October 7, 2009.

McLennan County: The Waco-McLennan County Public Health District reported that the number of flu cases reported in McLennan County for the week of September 27 through October 3, 2009 was 934 cases. (The case number is the combined information on reports of Type A, Type B, and Influenza-like Illness from healthcare providers and school nurses. Because laboratory confirmation is no longer required for a H1N1 diagnosis, the Health District is reporting all influenza-like illnesses.) (RLO 6A, Waco-McLennan County PHD)

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: Since Friday, September 25, 2009, a total of 21,244 calls have been taken in response to callers' inquiries for both general Information and Referral (I&R) as well as medical needs. The majority of calls up to this point have been for information regarding antivirals. The highest reported unmet need has been for vaccine information. Geographic areas with highest number of calls: Dallas, Austin, San Antonio and Houston.

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 16,000 providers 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.

The new TexasFlu.org landing web page will go live at the end of this week and over 50,000 flyers will be sent to DSHS subscribers announcing the launch of the new web page. On October 9, 2009, DSHS will host a webinar to provide information to the media so that they have the facts needed for their listening and viewing audience regarding H1N1 and seasonal influenza. 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 only moderate flu activity among students in school districts. Three school districts have been closed due to flu-like illnesses, affecting under 2,000 students and approximately 300 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 sent letters to school administrators regarding two school closure and re-opening forms to links on their website. 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. 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: 52 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 14, 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
Chief, Texas Division of Emergency Management