

STATE OF TEXAS, STATE OPERATIONS CENTER (SOC)

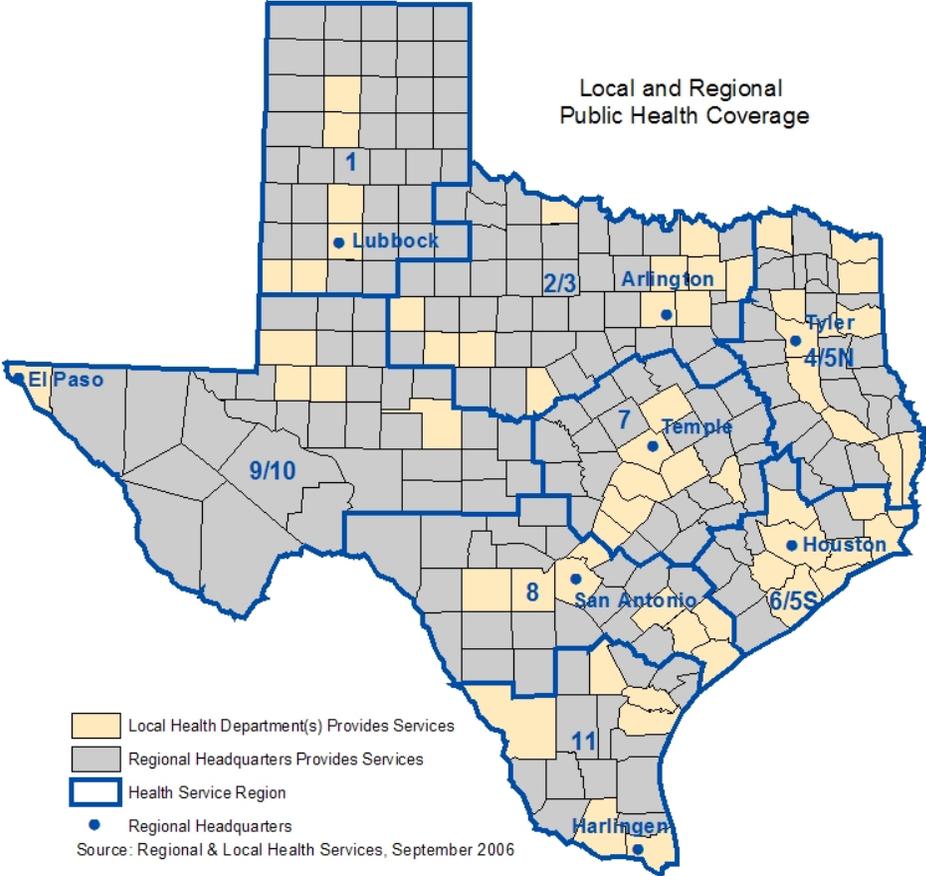
SUBJECT: H1N1 Influenza Preparedness

SITUATION REPORT # 6

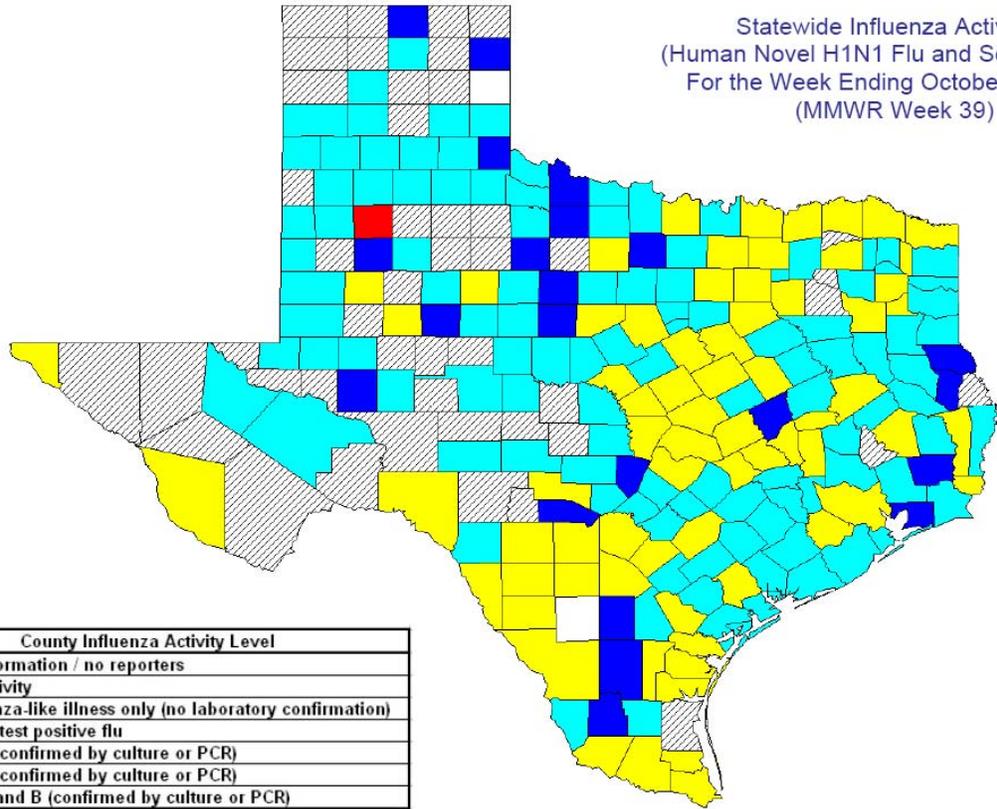
**DATE AND TIME COVERED: Thursday, October 8, 2009 through
Thursday, October 15, 2009**

CURRENT SITUATION: During week 39, twenty-seven states reported geographically “widespread” influenza activity, Guam and eleven states reported regional influenza activity, two states, the District of Columbia, and Puerto Rico reported local influenza activity, and the U.S. Virgin Islands did not report. 2,968 (27.4%) 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. 99% of 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 at the epidemic threshold. Nineteen influenza-associated pediatric deaths were reported. Sixteen of these deaths were associated with 2009 influenza A (H1N1) virus infection and three were associated with influenza A virus, for which subtype is undetermined. The influenza activity level for Texas for the week ending October 3, 2009 was “widespread”. During week 39, 1,037 (29.9%) of specimens tested by the 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 39. Thirteen hospital laboratories and public health agencies across Texas reported conducting a total of 3,469 influenza tests to NREVSS, sponsored by the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC). Health Service Regions (HSRs) for week 38. HSRs 1, 7, 8, and 11 reported an increased level of flu activity compared to week 38. HSRs 2/3, 6/5S, and 9/10 reported the same level of flu activity compared to week 38. HSR 4/5N reported a decreased level of flu activity compared to week 38. 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 69 deaths. Seventeen of the 69 deaths occurred within the past week. Thirty-five of the 69 deaths were persons between the ages of 25 and 49. The State reported four new influenza-associated pediatric deaths in week 39. The first death occurred in a 14 year-old resident of HSR 2/3 with no underlying medical conditions. A specimen from the child tested positive by PCR for novel influenza A (H1N1). The second death occurred in a 6 year-old resident of HSR 4/5N with significant underlying medical conditions. The child was positive via PCR testing for novel influenza A (H1N1). The third death occurred in a 9 year-old resident of HSR 4/5N with significant underlying conditions. The child's specimen tested positive for novel influenza A (H1N1) by PCR. The fourth death occurred in an 11 year-old resident of HSR 8 with significant underlying medical conditions. Although the child's specimen tested positive for influenza A by PCR, subtyping was not performed. Texas has reported 26 influenza-associated pediatric fatalities during the 2008-2009 influenza season. During week 39, multiple school closures were reported. One school in Dallas County closed. School districts in Bowie, Henderson, and Wood Counties closed due to increased absenteeism related to flu. Multiple campuses in Walker County closed due to faculty illness and absenteeism.

Local and Regional Public Health Coverage



Statewide Influenza Activity^{1,2}
 (Human Novel H1N1 Flu and Seasonal Flu)
 For the Week Ending October 3, 2009³
 (MMWR Week 39)



County Influenza Activity Level	
	No information / no reporters
	No activity
	Influenza-like illness only (no laboratory confirmation)
	Rapid test positive flu
	Flu A (confirmed by culture or PCR)
	Flu B (confirmed by culture or PCR)
	Flu A and B (confirmed by culture or PCR)

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

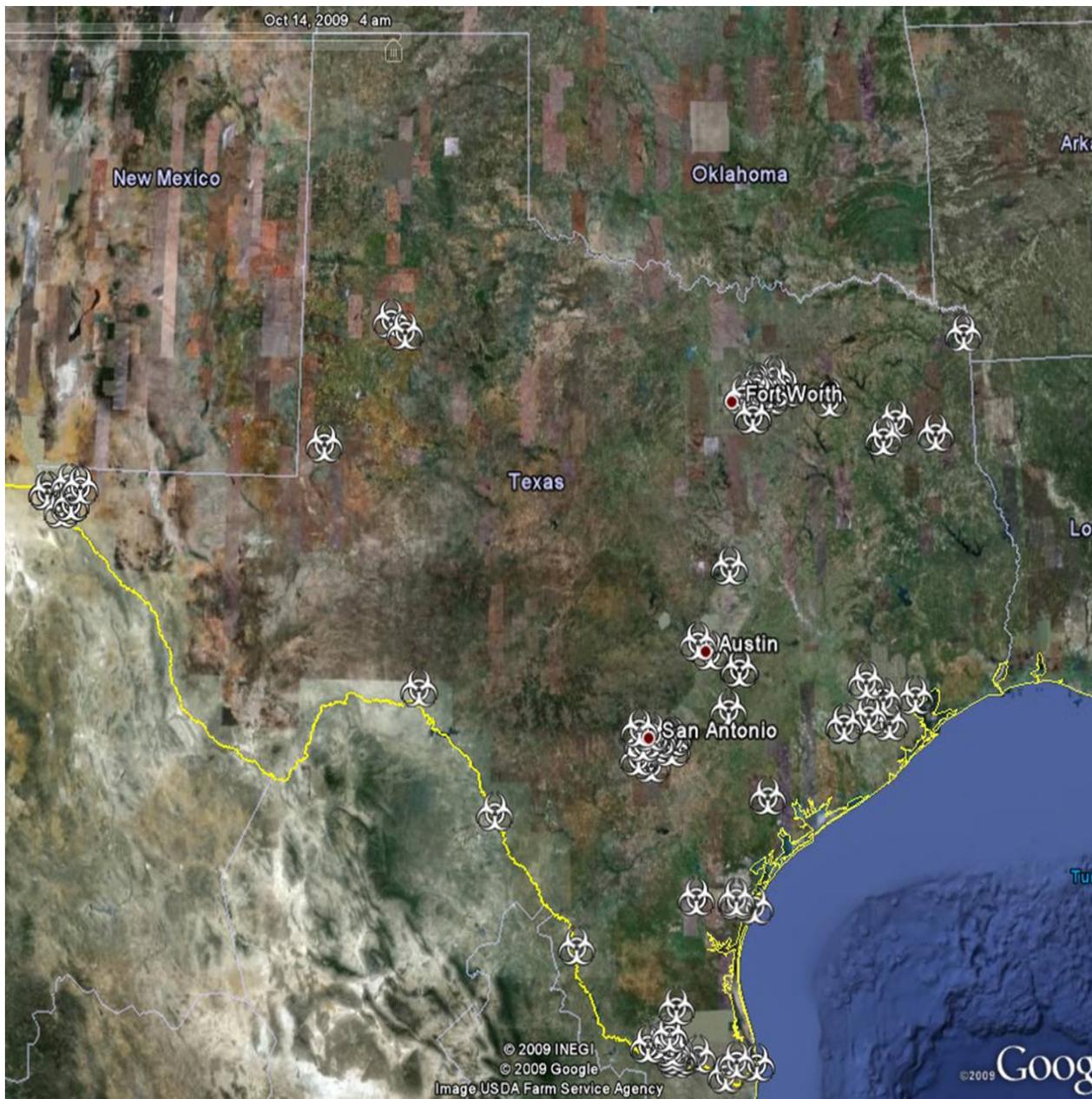
²The majority of influenza cases are not reportable by law to the Texas Department of State Health Services. This map contains data from sentinel sites and does not represent all influenza cases in the state.

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

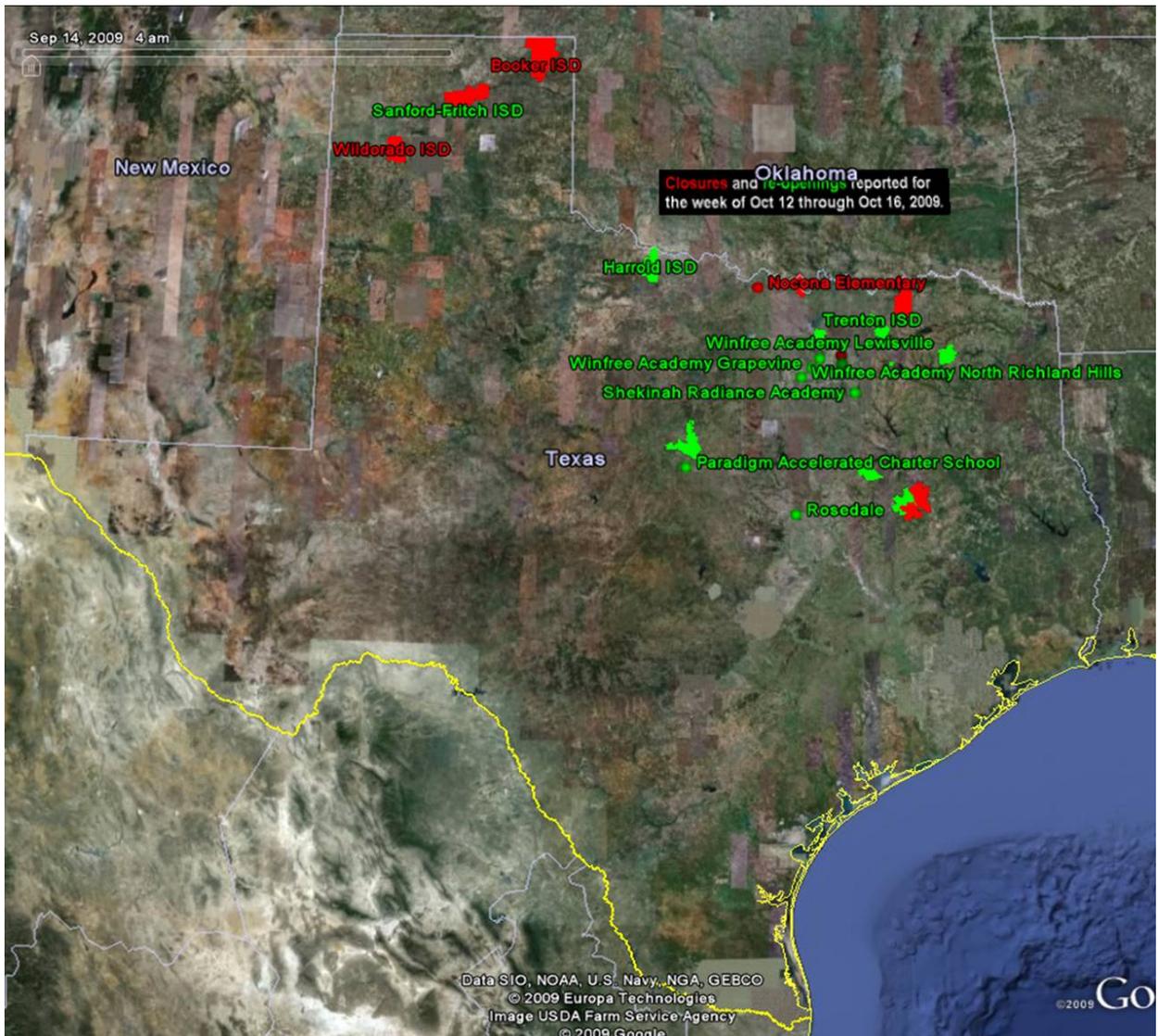
DSHS has advised that it is very important that the State uses available supplies appropriately. It is recommended that antivirals be used for those in high-risk groups for severe illness or complications or those who are hospitalized. Antivirals should NOT be used as a preventive measure in healthy 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 39, there have been 69 confirmed fatalities caused by H1N1.

Map of H1N1 deaths in Texas, as of October 14, 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 re-opened Tuesday, October 13, 2009. (TEA)

Collin County: Great Lakes Academy, a private school located at 6000 Custer Road in Plano, closed on Tuesday, October 13, 2009 between 9:00 a.m and 10:00 a.m. Total enrollment is 62 students. Twenty students called in sick and of those 20 students, 18 had called in sick by 8:30 a.m. Tuesday morning. School officials plan to re-open the school on Monday, October 20, 2009.

Comanche County: De Leon ISD re-opened Tuesday, October 13, 2009. (TEA)

Cooke County: Sivells Bend ISD closed on Wednesday, October 14, 2009 and plans to re-open on Monday, October 19, 2009, due to flu. This is a small K-8 ISD near Moss Lake in the County. (RLO Sub 1A)

Dallas County: Winfree Academy Charter Schools closed on Tuesday, October 13, 2009 and scheduled re-opened on Wednesday, October 14, 2009.

In Dallas County, through Week 39, the numbers of patients presenting to area Emergency Departments with chief complaints of influenza-like illnesses continued to increase. About 60% of these patients were between the ages of 5 to 24 years. The numbers of hospitalizations with confirmed 2009 H1N1 increased during week 39. As of week 39, 227 Dallas County residents with confirmed pH1N1 infection were hospitalized. About three-fourths of these patients had identified underlying high-risk conditions for severe disease. Three H1N1 influenza-associated fatalities of Dallas County residents occurred during week 39, with an additional death occurring during week 40. Eight of the nine H1N1 influenza-associated deaths which have been reported to date have occurred in persons with underlying chronic medical conditions. One oseltamivir-resistant H1N1 virus has been identified in a resident of Dallas County. There have been 2 influenza-related school dismissals to date in Dallas County. Influenza-related dismissal of one school located within Dallas County occurred during week 39. A second influenza-related dismissal of a small elementary school in Dallas County occurred in week 40.

Denton County: Aubrey ISD re-opened on Tuesday, October 13, 2009. (TEA)

Fannin County: Trenton ISD re-opened Monday, October 12, 2009. Honey Grove ISD was closed on Wednesday, October 14, 2009 and is scheduled to re-open on Monday, October 19, 2009. (RLO 1A, TEA)

Freestone County: Wortham ISD re-opened Tuesday, October 13, 2009. (TEA)

Hopkins County: Como-Pickton CISD re-opened Monday, October 12, 2009. (TEA)

Hunt County: Boles ISD re-opened October 14, 2009. Celeste ISD, which was closed on October 8, 2009, re-opened on October 13, 2009. (TEA)

Hutchinson County: Sanford/Fritch ISD closed on October 7, 2009 due to low attendance attributed to illness, and re-opened on Monday, October 12, 2009. West Texas Middle School in Plemons-Stinnett-Phillips CISD was closed on Tuesday, October 13, 2009 and is scheduled to re-open on Monday, October 19, 2009 due to flu-like illnesses. (RLO 5B, TEA)

Leon County: Buffalo ISD closed on Friday, October 09, 2009 due to H1N1 flu concerns, and re-opened on Tuesday, October 13, 2009. Oakwood ISD closed on Wednesday, October 14, 2009 and is scheduled to re-open on Tuesday, October 20, 2009. (RLO 6C, TEA)

Lipscomb County: Darrouzett ISD was closed on Wednesday, October 14, 2009 and is scheduled to re-open on Monday, October 19, 2009. Booker ISD was closed on Thursday, October 15, 2009 and is scheduled to re-open on Tuesday, October 20, 2009. (RLO 5B, TEA)

Montague County: Nocona Elementary School in the City of Nocona closed on Wednesday, October 14, 2009 and will re-open for classes on Monday, October 19, 2009. Total enrollment is 407 students and on Tuesday approximately 20% absenteeism was reported, due to flu-like symptoms. The school district will sanitize the school while it is closed. (RLO Sub 5A, Montague County EMC)

Oldham County: Wildorado ISD was closed on Wednesday, October 14, 2009 and is scheduled to re-open on Monday, October 19, 2009. (TEA)

Tarrant County: The Tarrant County Office of Emergency Management (TCOEM) continues to monitor the H1N1 situation. Last week's notes did not go out via list serve for technical reasons. Last week, Tarrant County Public Health (TCPH) received an unplanned shipment of 500 doses of Flumist. The vaccine was delivered to Pediatric Healthcare (PH) workers and well children between 24-48 months of age. TCPH does not know when it will receive any additional vaccine nor preparation/type will be received

next. But, they are anticipating additional vaccine later this month, as previously reported. Once available, TCPH will be administering the vaccine to target groups first and then to the remainder of the community. TCPH plans including working closely with their community partners regarding vaccine administration, as well as providing the vaccine through the PH Clinics, temporary store front venues and community events, as necessary. There has been one fatality in Tarrant County (one suspicious death under investigation at this time, awaiting laboratory results from the State). Critical priorities are:

- Stay ahead of the “media curve”. Provide timely news releases regarding new information to avoid rumors/speculation.
- Continue to provide immediate “heads up” notifications to cities when suspicious cases are being investigated.
- Continue to update agencies, municipalities and other stakeholders with weekly conference calls and influenza surveillance reports regarding the current situation.

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

Travis County: Rosedale Elementary, Special Needs students in Austin ISD was closed on Friday, October 9, 2009 due to an increase in the numbers of students with flu like illness reported. The school remained open for staff and re-opened October 12, 2009 to students. (RLO 6B)

Wilbarger County: Harrold ISD re-opened on Monday, October 12, 2009. (TEA)

2-1-1: Following is the 2-1-1 Texas/H1N1 Call Report for the week of October 7 through October 13, 2009. 2-1-1 Texas handled a total of 8,524 calls during this period.

Medical Staff:	3,377
General Information and Referral (I&R):	5,147

Total Calls Handled:	8,524
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Primary Age Group Requesting Information:	21-30 years
Secondary Age Group Requesting Information:	31-40 years

Top Requests:

- Influenza Control
- Community Services
- Vaccine Information
- Flu Shots
- School Dismissals

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, 13,820 providers have pre-registered and 12,120 providers have completed the registration process. 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 went live last week and over 50,000 flyers will be sent to DSHS subscribers announcing the launch of the new web page via govdelivery. On October 9, 2009, DSHS hosted 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. Forty media outlets participated. 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 33 school districts closed or partially closed during week 39; 26 have re-opened. The closings/partial closings affected approximately 27,000 students and 3,70 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. THECB has 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 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.
2-1-1 Texas	Call Center

4. CASUALTIES: 69 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 21, 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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