

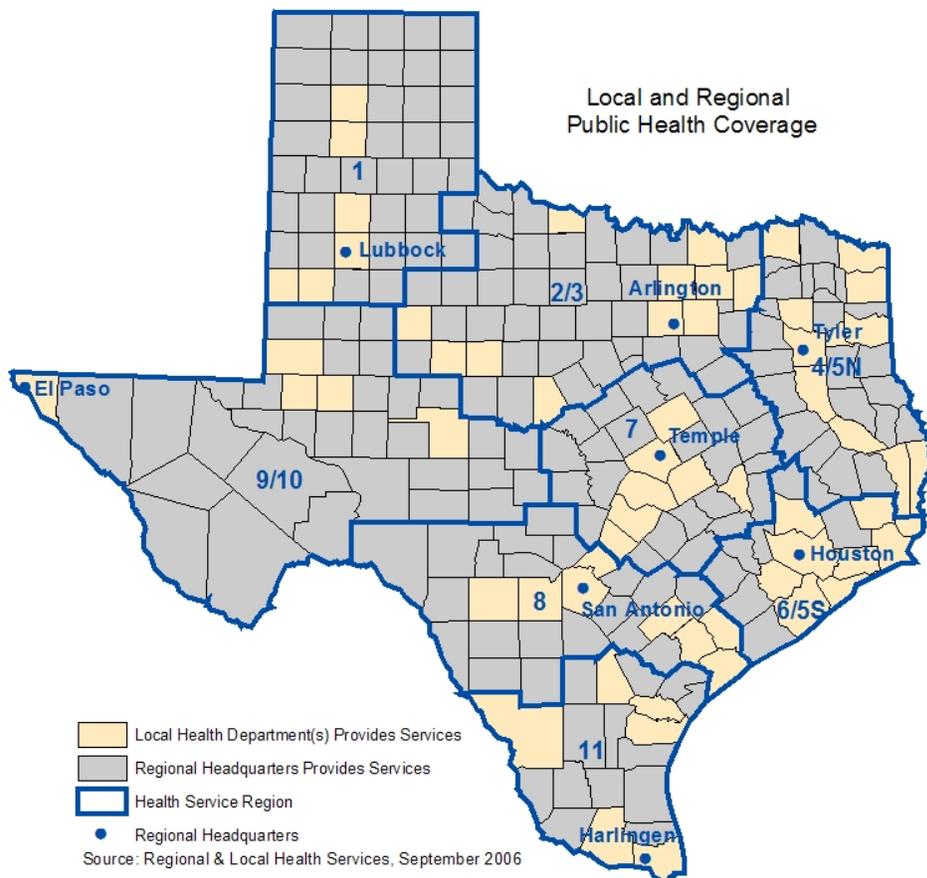
STATE OF TEXAS, STATE OPERATIONS CENTER (SOC)

SUBJECT: H1N1 Influenza Preparedness

SITUATION REPORT # 2

DATE AND TIME COVERED: Monday, August 24, 2009 through Thursday, September 17, 2009

CURRENT SITUATION: The State of Texas continues to monitor the on-going progression of H1N1. The influenza (flu) activity level for Texas for the week ending September 12, 2009 was "regional". Health Services Regions 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 5S, 7 and 11 reported an increased level of influenza activity compared to the previous week. Health Services Regions 8, 9, and 10 reported the same level as the previous week. Since the beginning of this outbreak in April there have been a total of 42 deaths due to influenza-like illness in the State of Texas. Severe cases of influenza appear to occur in persons with underlying health conditions such as lung disease, heart disease, immuno-suppression, and in pregnant women. The predominant strain continues to be Type A Novel H1N1 Influenza Virus.



Friday, 8:00 AM through 5:00 PM, Central Standard Time. Effective October 1, 2009, DSHS and 211 Texas will establish a joint statewide toll-free call center to include clinic and referral information for the public.

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): Is providing guidance to independent school districts and private school administrations. School districts are encouraged to closely monitor absenteeism for possible school closure. TEA is also providing assistance with procedures necessary to obtain required waivers due to loss of instructional days or low attendance requiring school closures due to widespread influenza impacts. In addition, the TEA is working closely with the DSHS to provide information to administrators, educators, parents, and students on preventative measures to help stop the spread of influenza. TEA reported only local outbreaks in school districts and no school closures. 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.

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. Also available to assist School Administrators on requesting procedures to continue school breakfast and lunch supplemental programs during periods of school closure due to H1N1. Last spring more than 500,000 Texas students were left without access to their regular school meals when many schools were forced to close temporarily during the initial H1N1 flu outbreak. TDA, TEA, and HHSC have been coordinating with the U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) to develop a plan to allow schools and community organizations to provide reimbursable meals during a public health emergency. School food authorities (SFAs) and community organizations (COs) will be able to offer meals in non-congregate settings through a modified Summer Food Service Program or the National School Lunch Program's Seamless Summer Option. Since no duplication of coverage is allowed, SFAs and COs are encouraged to work together to ensure meals are provided to students in the event of an H1N1-related school closure. This special program allowance may be invoked only upon the declaration of a public health emergency. 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

4. **CASUALTIES:** None

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, September 23, 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