

Public Health Emergency Preparedness  
BRAZORIA COUNTY HEALTH DEPARTMENT

# PUBLIC HEALTH MATTERS

January 2010



## MISSION STATEMENT

BRAZORIA COUNTY WILL BE PREPARED FOR AND READY TO RESPOND TO A HEALTH AND MEDICAL EVENT DUE TO EITHER A MAN-MADE OR NATURAL DISASTER

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## Texas Department of State Health Services H1N1 Vaccine

The Texas Department of State Health Services is announcing today that it is opening the state's H1N1 vaccine supply to the general public. Effective immediately, if your vaccine supplies permit, you may use the H1N1 vaccine to vaccinate anyone who needs it.

Because not all priority populations

have received vaccine, DSHS will continue to allocate vaccine to serve those in the ACIP priority groups. Health care providers are encouraged to use their clinical judgment when deciding on the most effective use of available vaccine supplies to serve their patients and community.

DSHS Press Release 12-11-09

## PHEP Changes Strategy for Administering H1N1 Vaccine

The Brazoria County Health Department is changing its strategy for offering the 2009 H1N1 vaccine. The Texas Department of State Health Services recently announced that it is opening up the state's H1N1 vaccine supply to the general public, so BCHD will be changing its strategy to follow the state agency's recommendations.

The Public Health Emergency Preparedness and Response Team of the Brazoria County Health Department has been offering vaccinations in area school districts. To date, parents of almost 4,000 children in five school districts have opted to have their children vaccinated. This came at a cost of over 250 contract vaccinator hours.

Now that the supply of vaccine has increased substantially, the team is going to shift its efforts to provide vaccine to entire communities. This change in strategy will allow the vaccine to be offered to people from age 6 months and up in a faster and more efficient manner. The team is working with cities in Brazosport, Pearland,

Angleton, Alvin, and West of the Brazos to set up vaccination programs. The following tentative dates have been set: Freeport-January 21, Lake Jackson-January 23, Pearland-January 30-31, Angleton-February 6, and Alvin-February 13. The date has not been set for West of the Brazos.

As dates and times are confirmed, information will be made available to the public through local media and the schools, by the cities, by calling 2-1-1, at [www.brazoriacountyflu.com](http://www.brazoriacountyflu.com), and on the Brazoria County Hotline at (979) 864-1084. There is no charge in the mass vaccination programs and residents may go to any site to be vaccinated. Confirming the dates of the community vaccination programs will depend on the availability of the vaccine.

Children under the age of 10 will need two doses of the vaccine. Approximately four weeks after each city's vaccination program, vaccinators will be scheduled in community locations to give children under the age of 10 their second dose and to administer the vaccine to anyone else that missed the first dates.

**JANUARY 10-16, 2010 IS NATIONAL INFLUENZA WEEK**

**GET YOUR SEASONAL AND H1N1 INFLUENZA VACCINE**



# Cold Weather Health Precautions

Freezing temperatures, chilling winds, ice storms and snow can cause serious health problems including frostbite and hypothermia (abnormally low body temperature).

## Precautions

- Wear several layers of loose-fitting clothing, mittens, a hat and a face cover when outdoors.
- Stay dry.
- Be extra cautious in the wind. A strong wind, even in only moderately cold weather, can cause a wind chill far below freezing.
- At the first signs of possible frostbite – redness or pain in any skin area – get out of the cold or protect any exposed skin.
- Watch for hypothermia symptoms.
  - Confusion, drowsiness, slurred speech, a drop in blood pressure, shallow breathing and a pinkish tint to the skin.
  - Anyone with hypothermia symptoms is in immediate danger and should receive medical help right away.

Check on elderly or sick people, especially if they live alone or in isolated areas.

## Food Safety

Winter storms can cause power outages and lead to food safety problems. If you lose power for more than four hours, take these precautions with refrigerated food products:

- Keep refrigerator and freezer doors closed as much as possible during power outages.
- Discard any potentially hazardous foods such as meats, eggs, dairy products and leftovers that may have reached a temperature of 40 degrees or higher. When in doubt, throw it out.

Frozen food that has thawed but not exceeded 40 degrees should be prepared as soon as possible. Do not refreeze.

## Generators

Avoid exposure to deadly carbon monoxide gas. Never use a generator, charcoal grill, camp stove or other gasoline or charcoal-burning device inside your home, basement or garage or outdoors near a window.

Provided by the Texas Department of State Health Services

For more information go to [www.dshs.state.tx.us](http://www.dshs.state.tx.us)



## Brazoria County-Reportable Diseases

Reportable Diseases	Jan	Feb	Mar	April	May	June	July	Aug	Sept	Oct	Nov	Dec	Total
Bacterial Meningitis										2			2
Campylobacteriosis		1	2							2	1		6
Chlamydia	3	8	9	6	7	9	5	7	4	4	6	10	78
Cryptosporidiosis	1	2											3
Dengue								1					1
Gonorrhea	2		2	4	3	3	2	1	4		6	6	33
Guardiasis								2					2
Hepatitis A, acute			2			1		1		1			5
Hepatitis B, acute		4	1	1		2	2	3	2	8	1	2	26
Hepatitis C, acute		15	5	6	2	7	6	9	7	19	7	12	95
HIV infection, Adult	1				1	2	2					1	7
Legionellosis													0
Lyme Disease													0
Malaria						1							1
Meningitis (Viral)											1	1	1
Pertussis				1		1				1	1		4
Salmonellosis	2	1	5	1		6	7	1	1	9	8	5	46
Shigellosis	1			1		2	2			1	1	1	9
Streptococcus pneumoniae, invasive	2	2	5			2	3		1			8	23
Syphilis	2	4	3	2	2		3	1	1	1			19
Tuberculosis									8	1		1	10
Varicella (Chicken Pox)	7	3	4	4	3	6	5		6	4	4	2	48
West Nile Virus													0

### PHEP TEAM

Leo D. O’Gorman , MD, MPH	Health Authority
Jo Mapel, RN, BSN, MPH	Team Leader
Jan Prejean, RN	Disease Surveillance
Barbara Perkins	Facilitator
David Stroud	SNS Coordinator
Tamara Tisdale	Office Manager
Chasey Reed-Boston	H1N1 Project Manager
Stephanie Smith	H1N1 Facilitator

### CONTACT US

**432 E. Mulberry     Angleton, Tx 77515**  
**979-864-1166     Fax: 979-864-3694**

**WE'RE ON THE WEB**  
[\*\*www.BrazoriaCountyFlu.com\*\*](http://www.BrazoriaCountyFlu.com)

# H1N1 VACCINE PROGRAM



## MEET SOME OF OUR LICENSED VACCINATORS



Jennifer Gonzales, RN



Kathy Pickering, RN



Susan Hashop, RN



Staci Rhyne, Paramedic

## PHEP Changes Strategy for Administering H1N1 Vaccine

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Dr. David Lakey, DSHS commissioner, said on December 18, "There is the potential for another wave of illness. People should not become complacent about protecting themselves. Get vaccinated, wash your hands and stay home if you're sick."

Those interested in volunteering at the mass vaccination programs are asked to call their city's emergency manager. They may also call Stephanie Smith at Public Health Emergency Preparedness and Response at (979) 864-1166 or e-mail [volunteer@brazoria-county.com](mailto:volunteer@brazoria-county.com).



From a shortage of H1N1 Influenza vaccine to an abundance.....

The PHEP staff pictured with a delivery of H1N1 Vaccine.

## News Release December 18, 2009 ——— Get H1N1 Flu Shot

The Texas Department of State Health Services is encouraging people to get their H1N1 flu vaccination now.

“There is the potential for another wave of illness. People should not become complacent about protecting themselves,” said Dr. David Lakey, DSHS commissioner. “Get vaccinated, wash your hands and stay home if you’re sick.”

With supplies increasing, Texas health officials are urging providers to offer the vaccine to anyone who wants it but to continue to ensure people in priority groups get the vaccine they need.

Texas continues to order the state’s full allocation of the H1N1 vaccine as quickly as possible, with

about 7.24 million doses ordered as of yesterday.

More orders and shipments will follow as providers confirm their orders with DSHS.

The U.S. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention has allocated about 7.6 million doses to Texas. About 870,000 of those doses were allocated over the course of this week and are in the process of being ordered and distributed to Texas providers.

People who want the vaccine should check with their usual health care provider about vaccine availability or use the flu vaccine locator service available on [TexasFlu.org](http://TexasFlu.org).

Texas expects to receive nearly 13 million doses of the vaccine by January.



### PIGS IN A PEN

Each staff member of PHEP received a personalized pig to commemorate the “Swine” Flu, compliments of H1N1 Project Manager Chasey Reed-Boston and her family.

The pig pens, crafted by staff member Barbara Perkins showed up a couple of days later.

## BIOTERRORISM: EXPLOSIVES

Given recent events such as the attempted bombing of the Northwest Airlines flight to Detroit on Christmas Day it seems pertinent to address the threats we face from explosives.

Explosions are used everyday in fields such as mining and demolition but they can also be the result of an industrial accident or in the case of Flight 253, an act of terrorism. In the case of terrorism the explosion may be a means of spreading toxins, biological or radiological agents over a wide area. The use of explosives for this means is ultimately to cause death, destruction and fear.

Because it is hard to predict when an explosion might take place, whatever the reason, it is important to be prepared on how to respond. Because of the volatility of most substances involved in improvised explosive devices, or IEDs, when one is located it is essential to get everyone as far away from the device as possible. The most dangerous part of an IED is not the fire or noise but the debris and material propelled into the air.

It is important to also remember that the substances involved may be dangerous and when they are released into the atmosphere, can cause harm to others far from the blast site.

When an explosion has occurred take shelter as far from the site of the blast as possible and continue to monitor such things as the wind direction and speed. Sometimes the wind can carry materials for miles just like ash from a volcanic eruption.

Because it may take some time for a biological, chemical or radiological threat to be identified and tracked, having this knowledge can be the best way of keeping you and your family safe.