

Public Health Emergency Preparedness
BRAZORIA COUNTY HEALTH DEPARTMENT

PUBLIC HEALTH MATTERS

October 2009



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

Inside this issue:

Need a Speaker?	2
Contact Us	2
H1N1 Vaccine Supply	3
Going to College for H1N1	3
PHEP Staff Gets Training	4
H1N1 Helpline	4
Reportable Diseases	5

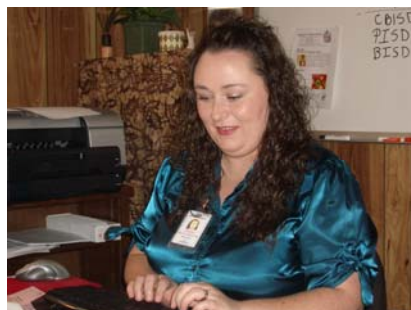
BRAZORIA COUNTY HAS A NEW H1N1 INFLUENZA WEBSITE

Want the latest on H1N1 Influenza? The website will list all the latest information for health care professionals, individuals and families, schools, day care, business, industry and more. Want to know if you are at high risk for complications of H1H1 Influenza? Want to know the cost of influenza on business? Go to www.BrazoriaCountyFlu.com. Soon you will be able to register to receive notice of new guidelines as they are posted.

NEW GRANT ALLOWS PHEP TO ADD TWO STAFF MEMBERS

CHASEY REED-BOSTON

Chasey M. Reed-Boston has accepted the position of Public Health Emergency Response Project Manager. Chasey has a BS and Masters of Arts in Human Services from Liberty University . She is finishing her dissertation for a doctorate of Public Health in Epidemiology.



Chasey previously worked as the Assistant Program Director for BACH and Assistant Director and Counselor with His Love Counseling.

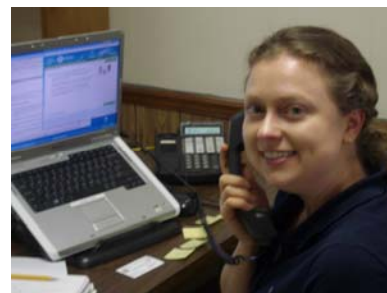
Chasey's first accomplishment at PHEP was to get our new website up and running.

Chasey is married to Robert Boston, II. Their children are daughter Allyson, a 6th grader, and son Jarrett who works with GSI.

Chasey's hobbies are golf, target shooting, playing musical instruments, sewing, and spending time with her family.

STEPHANIE SMITH

Stephanie Smith became a member of the PHEP team Tuesday, September 15, 2009. As their emergency response program facilitator for the 2009 H1N1 influenza, Stephanie will work with community members in schools, clinics, and industry to further public health emergency preparedness plans. Stephanie will also help the PHEP team monitor the progression of the 2009 H1N1 influenza pandemic and will aid the team in planning and executing mass immuniza-



tion clinics and PODs for dispensing vaccines and/or antivirals.

Stephanie received her Bachelor of Science from the University of Notre Dame and afterwards proceeded to attend the University of Minnesota in the Twin Cities where she earned her Masters in Public Health. While at *Continued page 2.....*

BRAZORIA COUNTY IMMUNIZATION CLINICS WILL NOT HAVE THE H1N1 FLU VACCINE

The State Health Department will distribute H1N1 Vaccine to health care providers (doctors, clinics) who have signed up to receive the vaccine for their patients. The Brazoria County Health Department immunization clinics will not have the H1N1 vaccine. Brazoria County Health Authority, Dr. Leo O’Gorman, states: “We must honor our contracts with the Vaccines for Children Program.

As the vaccine becomes more widely available, the flu shots will be available from pharmacies, urgent care clinics, and others who usually provide seasonal flu shots. You can get more information as it becomes available from www.brazoriacountyflu.com.

NEED A SPEAKER?

The PHEP team is available to make presentations on any topic related to public health emergencies, including influenza (seasonal flu and H1N1 novel flu), pandemic influenza planning, continuity of operations planning, emergency preparedness, bioterrorism threats, the Cities Readiness Initiative, disease surveillance, and others.

We have done presentations and training sessions for school nurses, community service organizations, home health and hospice organizations, long term care facilities, business groups, individual businesses, school groups, day care directors, hospitals, health care professionals, emergency medical services, local jurisdictions, law enforcement, the public, faith-based organizations, and volunteers.

If you are interested in a presentation for your group, e-mail Barbara Perkins at barbarap@brazoria-county.com or call (979) 864-1166.

Stephanie Smith continued.....

the University of Minnesota, she chose to concentrate her Masters work in Nutrition and simultaneously completed coursework and her dietetic internship to receive her Registered Dietitian license. Within the dietetic field, Stephanie has a strong interest in celiac disease, wellness, prevention, sustainability, and dietetic counseling of any kind.

Born and raised in Texas, Stephanie is the daughter of Angleton’s city engineer Herbert Smith, who works

for Baker & Lawson, Inc. She is excited to return to Texas after a long stint up North in cold, cold country and is thankful that she will not have to endure “feels like -40 degree weather” this January!

Stephanie enjoys traveling, playing tennis, spending time with friends and family, reading, anything Italian, and watching Notre Dame football. Stephanie’s dad is an Aggie (’74) and so she also relishes the rare moment when Texas A&M and Notre Dame duke it out on the field!

PHEP TEAM

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

CONTACT US

432 E. Mulberry Angleton, Tx 77515

979-864-1166 Fax: 979-864-3694

WE’RE ON THE WEB

www.BrazoriaCountyFlu.com



Mary Jo Baumeister (left) of TDECU was one of 40 members of the public who attended the “Emergency and Pandemic Flu Preparedness” seminar on September 12. The 2 ½ hour seminar covered common sense ways people can prepare for hurricanes, terrorist attacks, emergencies and pandemic flu. The seminar, which was a joint venture of Port Freeport, the Brazoria County Public Health Emergency Preparedness team, the Homeland Preparedness Project and Brazosport College, was held at the Brazosport College Corporate Learning Center.

Texas Department of State Health Services. Press Release 9-30-09

Initial H1N1 Flu Vaccine Supply to Trickle In

Texas Department of State Health Services officials report that the amount of H1N1 flu vaccine available for the state over the next few weeks will be low and are urging the public and health care providers waiting for it to be patient.

“We’ve been told that we’ll have about 15 million doses for Texas after all is said and done, but it won’t be available all at once,” said Dr. David Lakey, DSHS commissioner. “The vaccine will trickle in week to week, especially at first. It’s a fluid situation driven primarily by how much vaccine the manufacturers produce each week.”

He said some 3.4 million doses of the vaccine had been projected for Texas by mid-October, but the latest estimates are that no more than 1.7 million doses will be available by then. Weekly allotments are expected to be larger after mid-October.

Some 12,000 doctors and other health care providers in Texas have signed up to provide the vaccine. Starting this week, the U.S. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention will tell DSHS and other state health

departments how much vaccine is available for them to order for the week. DSHS then tells the CDC where to send it based on provider registration information, priority groups, vaccine formulation, geography and other factors. It may be one to two weeks later before that vaccine is in the hands of providers.

“All of us will have to be patient and flexible as we meet this challenge,” Lakey said. “For example, pregnant women are one of the highest priority groups for vaccination, but the first vaccine available to us is FluMist. Pregnant women should not receive FluMist.”

He said the first week’s allocation of about 237,000 doses of FluMist will go to registered providers to give to children 2 and 3 years of age. Children are another high priority group.

Lakey said the total of 15 million doses should be enough vaccine to meet anticipated demand in Texas but that it could be late January before all doses are received. He reminded Texans to get the seasonal flu shot, cover coughs and sneezes, wash hands often and stay home if sick.

WANT TO TALK TO SOMEONE ABOUT H1N1 INFLUENZA?

CALL 2-1-1. The statewide helpline will be able to your answer questions.

Texans can now dial 2-1-1 to receive over-the-phone medical guidance about what they should do if they or a family member have flu symptoms.

The state's 2-1-1 health information helpline is now staffed with medical professionals who can provide information about managing flu symptoms and advice on when to seek medical care from a physician or emergency room.

"We want to help people make informed decisions about how to care for themselves and their families," said Dr. David Lakey, commissioner of the Texas Department of State Health Services. "Most H1N1 and seasonal flu cases can be successfully treated at home, without having to go to the doctor or without an unnecessary trip to the emergency room."

The guidance is not intended to replace specific instructions people receive from their physicians, Lakey said.

The 2-1-1 staff also can provide general flu information and vaccine availability information for individuals and health care providers. Calls are answered round-the-clock. Callers are instructed to choose a language and then press "6" for flu information and guidance.

Basic flu symptoms include fever, cough and sore throat that usually come on suddenly. Most cases are relatively mild to moderate and do not need emergency treatment. Most people who have H1N1 flu or seasonal flu just need appropriate fluid intake, fever-reducing medication, rest and careful monitoring, Lakey said. Recovering at home also lessens the burden on the health care system.

People with underlying health conditions who think they have the flu should contact their health care provider.

The flu information and guidance service is provided through a DSHS contract with the 2-1-1 Texas Information and Referral Network operated by the Texas Health and Human Services Commission.



PHEP Team members David Stroud, Stephanie Smith, and Chasey Reed-Boston participated in the Incident Command System class (ICS 300-400) The class included an exercise for pandemic influenza and was conducted September 29-October 1 at the new City of Angleton Emergency Operations Center.

David Popoff (standing center), Regional Liaison for the Texas Division of Emergency Management, trained Brazoria County emergency responders in Incident Command System 300-400. The class, which was held at the new City of Angleton Emergency Operations Center September 29-October 1, included an exercise for pandemic influenza.



Brazoria County Reportable Diseases

Reportable Diseases	Jan	Feb	Mar	April	May	June	July	Aug	Sept	Oct	Nov	Dec	Total
Bacterial Meningitis													0
Campylobacteriosis		1	2										3
Chlamydia	3	8	9	6	7	9	5	7	4				58
Cryptosporidiosis	1	2											3
Dengue								1					1
Gonorrhea	2		2	4	3	3	2	1	4				21
Guardiasis								2					2
Hepatitis A, acute			2			1		1					4
Hepatitis B, acute		4	1	1		2	2	3	2				15
Hepatitis C, acute		15	5	6	2	7	6	9	7				57
HIV infection, Adult	1				1	2	2						6
Legionellosis													0
Lyme Disease													0
Malaria						1							1
Pertussis				1		1							2
Salmonellosis	2	1	5	1		6	7	1	1				24
Shigellosis	1			1		2	2						6
Streptococcus pneumoniae, invasive	2	2	5			2	3		1				15
Syphilis	2	4	3	2	2		3	1	1				18
Tuberculosis									1				1
Varicella (Chicken Pox)	7	3	4	4	3	6	5		6				38
West Nile Virus													0
													0

PORT FREEPORT HOSTS SEMINAR AT BRAZOSPORT COLLEGE CORPORATE LEARNING CENTER



Dr. Ralph Morris, Phil Allen, Mary Beth Riendeau, and Ben Westerlin, Port Freeport.

Port Freeport and the Corporate Learning Center of Brazosport College hosted a seminar on September 23-24 for local businesses on writing a continuity of operations plan (COOP). The Public Health Emergency Preparedness team presented information about the Brazoria County pandemic influenza plan.

Jo Mapel, Team Leader for Public Health Emergency Preparedness, made a presentation on the role of public health. Anne Bartlett, Director of Brazosport College Corporate Learning Center, assisted the Port in the development of this program.