

Public Health Emergency Preparedness
BRAZORIA COUNTY HEALTH DEPARTMENT

PUBLIC HEALTH MATTERS

AUGUST 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

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PHYSICIAN ADVISORY COMMITTEE FORMED

Public Health Preparedness is fortunate to have the advise of community physicians in our planning process. Several physicians from Brazoria County formed the PHP Advisory Committee. The first meeting was held on July 22 nd. Physicians attending were Dr. Leo O’Gorman, Brazoria County Health Authority, Dr. Brian Feaver, Dr. Enrique Leal, Dr. Jim Veselka, Dr. Sophia McFadden, Dr. Sparks Veasey and Dr. Blythe Allen-Hardy. Dr. Craig McDonald is also a member of the committee.

Topics included response to biological bioterrorism events and pandemic influenza.



SEASONAL FLU WILL BE BACK

Influenza (the flu) is a contagious respiratory illness caused by [influenza viruses](#). It can cause mild to severe illness, and at times can lead to death. The best way to prevent the flu is by getting a flu **vaccination** each year. Every year in the United States, on average 5% to 20% of the population gets the flu; more than 200,000 people are hospitalized from flu complications, and; about 36,000 people die from flu-related causes. Some people, such as older people, young children, and people with certain health conditions, are at high risk for serious flu complications.

All children 6 months and older should be vaccinated.



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						47
Cryptosporidiosis	1	2											3
Gonorrhea	2		2	4	3	3	2						16
Hepatitis A, acute			2			1							3
Hepatitis B, acute		4	1	1		2	2						10
Hepatitis C, acute		15	5	6	2	7	6						41
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						22
Shigellosis	1			1		2	2						6
Streptococcus pneumoniae, invasive	2	2	5			2	3						14
Syphilis	2	4	3	2	2		3						16
Varicella (Chicken Pox)	7	3	4	4	3	6	5						32
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 Grayson	Office Manager
Henrietta Gonzalez	Law Enforcement Liaison

CONTACT US

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WE’RE ON THE WEB

www.brazoria-county.com

DON'T FORGET IMMUNIZATIONS FOR SCHOOL CHILDREN

BIG SIX: BOTULISM

The clostridium botulinum bacteria produce a toxin, and it is the most poisonous substance known to science. The disease Botulism is a muscle-paralyzing disease that develops after a person is poisoned with botulinum toxin. The toxin is colorless, odorless, and tasteless.

The clostridium bacteria exists

naturally in the environment, and the toxin it produces can cause two types of illness—foodborne botulism and wound botulism. On average, 65% of cases each year in the U.S. are Infant Botulism. Feeding raw honey or corn syrup to infants is not recommended, because the botulism organism can exist in these foods. Inhalation

botulism (caused by breathing botulinum toxin) does not occur naturally but could be a result of a biological attack.

Botulism is not contagious from person-to-person. All forms of botulism can be fatal and are considered medical emergencies.

For more information go to: www.cdc.gov

CDC Advisors Make Recommendations for Use of Vaccine Against Novel H1N1

The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention's Advisory Committee on Immunization Practices (ACIP) met to develop recommendations on who should receive vaccine against novel influenza A (H1N1) when it becomes available, and to determine which groups of the population should be prioritized if the vaccine is initially available in extremely limited quantities.

Vaccination efforts are designed to help reduce the impact and spread of novel H1N1. The key populations include those who are at higher risk of disease or complications, those who are likely to come in contact with novel H1N1, and those who could infect young infants.

When vaccine is first available, the committee recommended that programs and providers try to vaccinate:

- pregnant women,
- people who live with or care for children younger than 6 months of age,
- health care and emergency services personnel,
- persons between the ages of 6 months through 24 years of age, and
- people from ages 25 through 64 years who are at higher risk for novel H1N1 because of chronic health disorders or compromised immune systems.

The committee does not ex-

pect that there will be a shortage of novel H1N1 vaccine, but availability and demand can be unpredictable. There is some possibility that initially the vaccine will be available in limited quantities.

The novel H1N1 vaccine is not intended to replace the seasonal flu vaccine. It is intended to be used alongside seasonal flu vaccine to protect people. Seasonal flu and novel H1N1 vaccines may be administered on the same day.

The Brazoria County PHP is concentrating current efforts on refining plans for distribution of H1N1 Vaccine. We will be working with county health care providers, hospitals, and others under the CDC Guidelines.

Volunteers needed!

On Thursday, August 6, from 8:00-11:30, the PHEP team will be very busy and could use your help!

We will be getting all the connectors for the Drive Up and Leave (DUAL) units out of the cargo containers and sorted. We will be color-coding them with duct tape.



Friday, August 7, starting at 8:00 a.m., we will

- **Drill the connectors**
- **Put in set screws**
- **Bundle the connectors by unit**
- **Restore them in the cargo containers**

If you can help, please come in your work clothes!

Training Sessions

Aug. 13th – 8:30-11:30

Pandemic Flu Planning for Local Jurisdictions, ADMC, POB

Aug. 20th – 8:00-11:30

Mass Dispensing for School Nurses, Brazosport ISD Board Room

Staff Training

Aug. 5th – 10-11:30, Web EOC

Aug. 6th – 1:30-4:30, Texas Inventory Management System

Aug. 26 – 8:00-4:00, DSHS Regional Flu Conference in Cypress

If you would like to schedule a presentation or training session for your community or organization, call (979) 864-1166.