

**DALLAS COUNTY HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES
PUBLIC HEALTH ADVISORY COMMITTEE**

Minutes
October 15, 2009

The meeting was called to order at 9:47 a.m. by Director, Zachary Thompson. The minutes were distributed and approved.

Mr. Zachary Thompson, Director briefly discussed Senate Bill 1732 – relating to safety requirements for public swimming pools. Information was discussed in the Public Health Advisory Committee (PHAC) meeting previously. He mentioned that he had received an email from an anonymous individual stating that the County must not be aware of the Senate Bill 1732.

Mr. Thompson also mentioned that it has been very hectic dealing with the back to school immunizations; seeing 500 clients/patients per day. However, the number has gone down to 200 per day. He went on to mention that Dallas County has seen more 7th graders in the last 2 weeks than any other group. Currently, Dallas County is working with the State on funding for the City of Dallas clinics that have closed. We're trying to use the same locations; there are (3) three: Oak Cliff, Pleasant Grove and North Dallas. In addition, there is also a clinic located in West Dallas. However, we're asking those clients to come to Dallas County Health and Human Services (DCHHS) for services.

Dr. Wendy Chung, Chief Epidemiologist presented on H1N1 Influenza Epidemiology update. She mentioned that the transmission rate compared to H1N1 is more or less the same, but it shows that the attack rate is higher and more severe in patients with underlying conditions. Hospital rates are higher for the young, opposed to what we're accustomed to seeing. Texas has seen an increase in influenza within the last 4 weeks.

Dr. Chung further stressed the predominant circulation of H1N1 influenza virus around the world. The widespread activity has geographically been reported in 37 states in the US. There were two (2) school closings due to the H1N1: (1) private and (1) charter. Finally, she emphasized the importance of community mitigation with the availability of vaccines, to control the outbreak and spread of the pandemic.

Dr. John Carlo, Medical Director/Health Authority began his presentation by giving brief updates on the importance of continuing immunizations and on-going services. Dr. Carlo said that in terms of vaccine safety, all medicines may have side-effects or adverse effects. However, to avoid the high risk of the virus, it is imperative that the proper action be taken. Dr. Carlo added that no one can predict what will happen next and advised to continue taking all the necessary measures, such as proper sanitization in order to prevent the spread of the pandemic flu. He pointed out that frequent hand washing and/or cleaning of the hands with alcohol-based hand-sanitizers are effective, to reduce the virus attack. He also mentioned that those who are experiencing flu-like symptoms should stay at home until they recover from the illness. Dr. Carlo indicated that voluntary isolation continues to be most effective. A child can return back to school after 24 hours, but they may still be infectious. In case of an emergency, Pharmacy's will assist. Kroger is giving Tamiflu to those unable to pay. Individuals must have a prescription from their doctor. He also mentioned that as leaders of the community we need to get the word out about the safety of the H1N1 vaccine. It's about the community health.

In regards to the availability of cleaning products, Dr. Carlo gave a website to review <http://www.epa.gov/oppad001/influenza-a-product-list.pdf>

Due to the unavailability of the H1N1 vaccine, the clinic for October 24th is postponed.

Vivyon Bowman, City of Coppell indicated that they are trying to encourage employees to take the vaccine, but they have concerns if they should take it or not. He also mentioned there the H1N1 is not covered under his insurance plan. Jim Cummings also had concerns with this issue. However, Dr. Carlo indicated that there is a special code for the H1N1 vaccine and that administrative costs should be reimbursed.

Vikkie Yeatts presented her clinical reports by stating the difficult situation encountered during back-to-school clinics, as the demand surpassed their goal set for the season. By having a shortage of the seasonal vaccine this has caused a high interest by the community in getting the H1N1 vaccine. She mentioned the importance of having partners dialogue with other entities to solve the problems with the vaccines distribution system among the communities.

Vikki thanked Dr. Carlo and Dr. Chung for their assistance. Many providers ran out of vaccine, which meant that the City of Garland saw more clients. In September, Garland saw over 6000 clients for immunizations.

Jim Cummings, mentioned that the County is handling things in a calm manner and sending out a clear message. He says, "It is good to have the information daily."

Jason Chessher thanked Mr. Thompson for putting the Senate Bill 1732 in the packages.

Commissioner Price asked if there was a portion of the County where we're seeing more symptoms. Dr. Chung responded by saying, no, it's not any one particular area. Commissioner also stated that DCHHS has really done a great job!

Zachary Thompson thanked the DCHHS for the great jobs done on the strategic plans to overcome these challenging issues. He also commended the school districts and the cities for inserts received in the water bill. In conclusion, he stated that partnerships have made the difference.

The meeting was adjourned at 11:00 am.