

## PUBLIC HEALTH

## PREPAREDNESS UPDATE

**April 2017**

Volume 13, Issue 3

Zachary Thompson, Director

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## DCHHS host annual Zika and West Nile press conference

DCHHS rolled out the annual Zika and West Nile press conference by providing a clinical update and overview of mosquito control surveillance for the 2017 mosquito season.

Media partners were granted access to the DCHHS laboratory where mosquito lab processes were photographed and recorded for public viewership.

The event provided a hands on opportunity to photograph BG Sentinel and Gravid mosquito traps which bait and collect mosquito species capable of disease transmission.

The main focus for this years press conference is to expand

Zika and West Nile awareness to the general public in preparation of this years mosquito season.

During the press conference, DCHHS Director Zachary Thompson heavily focused on West Nile advising media partners that West Nile remains the number one arbovirus threat to public health in Dallas County.

"While future outbreaks are unknown, DCHHS utilizes mosquito-based surveillance as the preferred method for monitoring or predicting West Nile virus outbreaks," said Zachary Thompson, DCHHS director.

"In regards to predicting a

potential Zika Outbreak, CDC recommends monitoring Zika activity through human illness surveillance and trap Zika vectors to establish population distributions."

As the mosquito season approaches, residents are reminded that ground spraying can dually reduce the spread of arbovirus diseases.

While DCHHS is on the look out for both Zika and West Nile for the 2017 season, DCHHS recommends residents to do their part by utilizing the 4Ds to reduce the chance of being bitten by a mosquito.

### Remember the 4Ds

**Deet** Whenever you're outside, use insect repellents that contain DEET or other EPA approved repellents.

**Dress** Wear long, loose, and light-colored clothing outside.

**Drain** Drain or treat all standing water in and around your home or workplace.

**Dusk & Dawn** Limit outdoor activities during dusk and dawn.

## Dallas County municipalities gear up for 2017 mosquito season



Dallas County municipalities, Laboratory Response Network Principle Investigator Daniel Serinaldi, Medical Director/Health Authority Dr. Christopher Perkins, Asst. Director Public Health Communicable Disease Tammara Scroggins, DCHHS Director Zachary Thompson, Mosquito Control Manager Scott Sawlis, Public Information Officer Renae Crutchfield, Laboratory Director Dr. Edward Bannister and Asst. Director Environmental Health Rudy Phillips.

Mosquito season is fast approaching with only a few weeks until the official season begins this upcoming May.

With ground spraying at the fore front of mosquito control, DCHHS Mosquito Control di-

vision held its annual mosquito control meeting aiming to join municipalities to combat mosquito species that could potentially carry arborviral diseases.

Representatives from municipalities shared best practices,

discussed response actions and were able to meet DCHHS response leadership face-to-face.

During the meeting, DCHHS advised ground spraying continues to be the primary method for mosquito control, however

in the event of a locally acquired Zika case, continuing conversations on aerial spraying with municipalities should be discussed with city leaders and officials.

## Dallas County Health Authority joins UT- Southwestern neglected tropical disease panel

DCHHS Medical Director/Health Authority Dr. Christopher Perkins joins UT- Southwestern in a panel to discuss neglected tropical diseases in the United States.

UT- Southwestern Dr. Marwa Saleh held the program, providing an overview to local clinicians and physicians regarding tropical diseases.

Key points were geared towards public health concerns that have affected Dallas County including mosquito- borne illness.

Dr. Perkins joined the panel to discuss Texas notifiable diseases, serving as a public health official with hands on experience regarding mosquito-borne illnesses such as Dengue, West

Nile and Zika virus.

“Participating in these panels are essential to public health education,” said Dr. Christopher Perkins, dchhs medical director/health authority.

“Local clinicians are vital to the discovery of public health concerns and surveillance. Partnering with private sector organizations allows DCHHS to investigate, respond and diagnose suspected public health concerns effectively.”

Through this event, DCHHS continues to advocate public health importance by reminding not only Dallas County residents of the approaching mosquito season, however bringing awareness to the local medical community as well.

## Director Zachary Thompson takes on Washington at the International Zika Virus Conference

Joining top public health officials across the nation, Director Thompson leads as a panelist for the 2nd Annual Zika Virus Conference in Washington, DC.

The panel focuses on diagnostic platforms, community mosquito control methods, crisis-emergency risk communication, ongoing Zika research, financial burdens of outbreaks, clinical concerns, blood supply donors, microcephaly and several other key topics.

On Nov. 28, 2016, the Texas Department of State Health Services reported the state’s first case of local mosquito-borne Zika virus infection in Brownsville.

As 2017, Dallas County does not have any reports of a locally acquired case of Zika virus, however DCHHS Director Zachary Thompson remains on high alert for potential locally acquired cases as travel cases continue to spike.

“DCHHS remains ahead of Zika by uniting with the most distinguished experts our nation has to offer,” said Zachary Thompson, dchhs director.

“First hand insights on research efforts and sharing best practices equip Dallas County with the best response practices to take action and combat potential outbreaks and the challenges that are presented.”



UT Southwestern Dr. Ricardo La Hoz, UT Southwestern Dr. Marwa Saleh and DCHHS Medical Director/Health Authority Dr. Christopher Perkins.



DCHHS Director Zachary Thompson and speakers at the International Zika Conference

## Finding housing for the homeless and veterans at Tent City



Director Zachary Thompson attended a meeting with HUD Secretary Ben Carson, Dallas VA Medical Center, DHA and HUD’s Fort Worth regional Office to discuss the HUD-Veterans Affairs Supportive Housing (HUD-VASH) program.

The Dallas County Housing agency provides VASH vouchers to homeless veterans. Joining the discussion, HUD Secretary Carson added Dallas to his listening tour. During the meeting, Director Thompson provided an update on DCHHS’ participation in finding housing for the homeless and homeless veterans at Tent City.



## Public Health Preparedness and Housing Division continue community outreach

### Dallas VA Medical Center Resource Fair



DCHHS Asst. Housing Director Thomas Lewis, SNS Coordinator Renee Owusu-Ansah and Public Health Educators Britni Williams and Janecia Holley.

DCHHS Public Health Preparedness Division and Dallas County Housing Division passed out Zika virus prevention, CEAP, weatherization and Veterans Affairs supportive housing materials at the Dallas VA Medical Center Resource Fair for Veterans. The purpose of the event is to provide resources and information that will assist local veterans with their basic needs.

### Get Ready! Stay Ready! Disaster Preparedness



DCHHS Public Health Educator Marisa Gonzales and DCHHS Director Zachary Thompson with DPD and South Dallas Business and Professional Women's Club

South Dallas Business and Professional Women's Club, Inc. held its Get Ready! Stay Ready! Disaster Relief Preparedness program for residents.

DCHHS Public Health Educator Marisa Gonzales gave a presentation on public health preparedness and handed out emergency preparedness materials to residents and members of the organization.

### Medical Reserve Corps Pod Drill

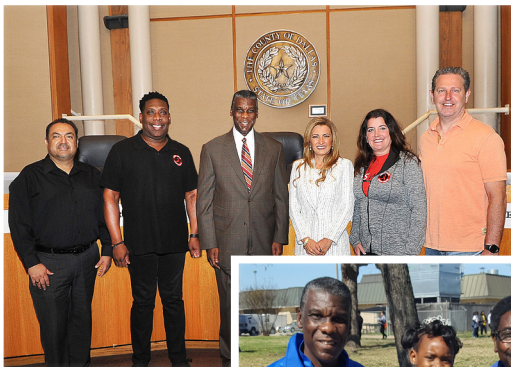


DCHHS Asst. Director Public Health Communicable Disease Tammara Scroggins, Public Health Educator Marisa Gonzales, MRC Clerk Areka McJoy, Senior Planner Rick Esparza and MRC Volunteer.

In conjunction with Medical Reserve Corps and the southwest cities (Desoto, Duncanville, Cedar Hill and Lancaster), DCHHS conducted a mock disaster exercise to test local response to a bioterrorism threat. The event consisted of hands on emergency scenarios being put into practice through multiple strategies and positions.

## Dallas County Commissioner Dr. Elba Garcia presents resolution for community initiatives

### AIDS Walk South Dallas 2017



DCHHS joined AIDS Walk South Dallas 2017 and the National Kidney Foundation to raise awareness for HIV/AIDS and Kidney Disease. Both organizations have been recognized by Dallas County Commissioners for their work in the community.



### National Kidney Foundation



# PREPAREDNESS UPDATE

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## Disaster Mental Health Symposium



Dallas County Homeland Security & Emergency Management Chief Doug Bass, Asst. Director Public Health Communicable Disease Tammar Scroggins, Public Health Manager Emily Gore and DCHHS Director Zachary Thompson

DCHHS joins local mental / behavioral healthcare professionals, first responders, emergency management and disaster volunteers to openly discuss challenges and solutions in disaster mental health.

The annual event focuses the psychological aspects of complex emergencies such as flood, tornadoes, violence and public health response such as Ebola and Zika virus.

Through the event, three break out sessions took place between participants which provided an opportunity for dialogue regarding

mental health in response planning.

Topics ranged from focusing on cultural competency in vulnerable populations, interventions on specific disaster mental health tools and hazard specific types of disasters like natural disasters and infectious disease.

Focusing on the latest practical strategies, the annual symposium extends the opportunity for DCHHS to continue to build upon existing processes helping strengthen Dallas County communities.

## Mumps outbreak continues

Dallas County joins the nation by adding to the highest mumps outbreak across the Texas. CDC has reported over 37 states across the nation are experiencing recent mumps outbreaks.

As of April 1, DCHHS has reported 72 cases of mumps throughout Dallas County. Most of these cases have been associated with an outbreak at Cedar Hill ISD, in which the numbers

continue to grow.

Although the outbreak is at the highest in Dallas County since 1992, the ratio of infection still remains low in comparison to the student population of roughly 1700 students.

“Cedar Hill is actively making strides to ensure students are protected by ensuring the classes are disinfected, looking out for symptoms and working

with DCHHS by allowing multiple clinics to take place at the school for those in need of the MMR vaccine,” said Zachary Thompson, DCHHS director.

“To help reduce the risk of exposure, DCHHS is offering a third dose of the MMR vaccine to those associated with the outbreak.”

The best way to protect against mumps is to get the MMR vac-

cine.”

Healthcare providers recommend that your child get two doses of the MMR shot for best protection. For those associated with an outbreak, CDC recommends a third dose of the MMR vaccine to boost immunity.

For more information on this story and mumps visit

[www.dallascounty.org/department/hhs/mumps.html](http://www.dallascounty.org/department/hhs/mumps.html)



**DCHHS**  
*Safe families, healthy lives.*

Dallas County Health and Human Services



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Dr. Christopher Perkins, Medical Director/Health Authority

### About This Newsletter

Public Health Preparedness Update is published monthly by Dallas County Health & Human Services. For information about this newsletter, contact DCHHS Public Information Officer Renae Crutchfield at 214-819-6329 or [renae.crutchfield@dallascounty.org](mailto:renae.crutchfield@dallascounty.org)

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