

PUBLIC HEALTH

PREPAREDNESS UPDATE

**May 2017**

Volume 13, Issue 4

Zachary Thompson, Director

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Department of Defense honors DCHHS for patriotic support

In 2016 Mosquito Control Manager and Navy Lieutenant Scott Sawlis was called to six month active duty to serve as the Forces Health Protection Officer at Marine Forces Europe and Africa Headquarters.

In support, DCHHS Director Zachary Thompson advocated for Sawlis' participation, showing appreciation for the values, leadership and unique skills service members bring to the workforce.

Upon his return, Sawlis nominated DCHHS for the Employer Support of the Guard and Reserve (ESGR) Service Member Patriot Award for setting a high standard for all county organizations to follow by providing above and beyond support of veterans.

ESGR is a Department of Defense office that seeks to foster a culture in which all employers support and

value the employment of service members in the National Guard and Reserve.

In a ceremony, Director Thompson accepted the Service Member Patriot Award and signed a Statement of Support for the Guard and Reserve, fully recognizing service members and their families in times of peace, crises and in war.



Left to Right: ESGR Committee Member Larry Thompson, DCHHS Director Zachary Thompson and DCHHS Mosquito Control Manager and Navy Lieutenant Scott Sawlis.

Texas Department of State Health Services visit DCHHS

Closed Pod Workshop



Left to right: DCHHS Senior Planner Rick Esparza, SNS Coordinator Renee Owusu-Ansah and DSHS Regional Preparedness Coordinator Chris Washington.

Public Health Preparedness works towards protecting the public's health in everyday situations as well as major disasters.

In the rare event of a large-scale public health emergency, DCHHS partners with local organizations and businesses to establish what is known as a Closed Point of Dispensing (POD) program.

The purpose of the program is to quickly provide preventive medication to large numbers of people during a public health emergency in an effort to prevent illness.

In April, DCHHS conducted a workshop for new and existing business partners who were interested in becoming a closed POD

site. The site would provide a location for partners to provide medications to their employees, clients, and family members in the event of a public health emergency.

In addition, Regional Preparedness Coordinator Chris Washington, a representative from the Texas Department of State Health Services (DSHS), also provided information on how vital Closed PODs were to the overall public health response.

The Closed POD Workshop was led by DCHHS Strategic National Stockpile Coordinator Renee Owusu-Ansah and Senior Planner Rick Esparza.

PHAC briefed on health concerns and what's happening in public health law today

Flu



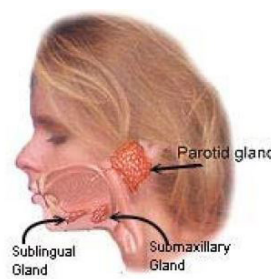
During the first Public Health Advisory Committee (PHAC) meeting of the year, DCHHS predicted flu season in Dallas County would be coming to a close this month.

Influenza related emergency room visits, ICU admissions, and hospitalizations are showing to decrease.

This season Dallas County has had a total of four influenza school outbreaks with one school closure.

April 18, DCHHS reported its first pediatric death of the season adding to a total of 17 flu related deaths in Dallas County as of May 1.

Mumps



DCHHS continues to investigate related mumps cases in Cedar Hill ISD (CHISD) and the cities of Mesquite, Dallas, and DeSoto.

DCHHS has sponsored vaccine clinics for CHISD, administering a voluntary third dose of the MMR vaccine to 339 students and a mandatory third dose to 210 staff members.

Epidemiologists curb suggest that Cedar Hill ISD should be near the end of the outbreak, however, DCHHS is still on high alert for potential transmission. Studies show additional cases may occur up to 25 days from the date of illness onset for the most recent case.

West Nile



Following four imported cases of Zika virus, West Nile virus has made its 2017 debut back to Dallas County with eight mosquito pools testing positive for West Nile in Mesquite, Balch Springs and an unincorporated area of Dallas County.

DCHHS and Mesquite environmental health divisions have issued ground spraying to reduce mosquito populations that have the potential to carry arboviral disease.

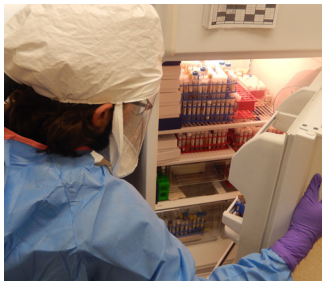
During the PHAC meeting, DCHHS discussed the services provided to Dallas County municipalities and provided an overview of historical trends of West Nile in the county.



Public health legislative bills in Texas under review

HB 1926	Allows home preparation of foods such as tamales, canned vegetables, fermented foods, and perishable (potentially hazardous) baked goods. Sales would be allowed anywhere in the state, including through mail order and internet sales, as long as the producer and consumer are both in Texas.
	Is it sanitary to allow home prepared food to be sold anywhere? What if it's restricted?
HB 2249	Relating to requirements for and the transparency of epidemiological reports and immunization exemption information and reports.
	Should other parents know if your child is up to date on vaccinations?

Dallas County fights the bite as mosquito season returns



Dallas County officially declares mosquito season as rainy conditions and rising temperatures welcome mosquitoes that potentially carry arboviral disease.

DCHHS is calling upon residents to take preventative measures to avoid exposure to West Nile. DCHHS has confirmed positive West Nile traps in the cities of Mesquite and Balch Springs within the last few weeks and trends are ex-

pected to increase within the coming months.

Mosquito breeding grounds are known to surround areas with standing water. This can be in trash cans, bird baths, pet water dishes, pipes, hoses, swimming pools, pitcher plants, rain gutters, flower pots and virtually anywhere water may accumulate.

As mosquito season ramps up, DCHHS and county municipalities continue to track down mosquito breeding sites to determine if larviciding is necessary.

Residents can locate positive West Nile traps in their area by visiting the DCHHS website at dallascounty.org/department/hhs/WestNileWatch



Left to right: Asst. Director Environmental Health Rudy Phillips, Lead Mosquito Technician Van Adams, Entomologist Vector Control Supervisor Aubrey Paolino, Asst. Director Public Health Communicable Disease Tammara Scroggins, Vector Control Manager Scott Sawlis and DCHHS Medical Director/ Health Authority Dr. Christopher Perkins.

DCHHS participates in CHISD community health forum to discuss mumps

DCHHS has reported 88 mumps cases in Dallas County, with 75 percent of cases associated with the current Cedar Hill ISD (CHISD) outbreak.

CHISD hosted a community forum to discuss the outbreak and address questions from parents.

The forum featured Dallas County Health Authority Dr. Christopher Perkins, Cedar Hill Health Authority Dr. Michael Marshall, Head Nurse Pamela Reese-Taylor and CHISD Superintendent Orlando Riddick.

During the forum, parents were advised of cleaning precautions being taken by the school and initiatives from DCHHS. Officials fully disclosed information to parents and board members assuring that proper recommendations from the CDC are being taken.

"We're managing it," said Or-



lando Riddick, CHISD superintendent. "I don't know if you can manage it to a zero level. But I think some of our practices are

good in an effort to help mitigate it."

DCHHS recommends residents to join the fight to help stop the

spread of mumps. Group settings such as schools and businesses can create an ideal environment for the spread of disease.

"Mumps is a highly contagious viral disease that can easily be spread through surfaces and items such as handles, cups, utensils, lipstick etc," said Dr. Christopher Perkins, DCHHS health authority/medical director.

"In addition, direct interaction of a symptomatic individual can be spread when the individual coughs, sneezes or talks."

DCHHS is taking action in response to the outbreak as well as mumps cases throughout Dallas County. It is recommended that the entire community aid in the response as well by looking out for symptoms, practicing proper cough etiquette and ensuring vaccinations are up to date.

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Get back on track with do it yourself credit repair



Left to right: Bilingual Housing Counselor Maria Ramirez, HLCC Admin Anglinette Stratford, HLCC Housing Officer Sherry Hartford and Ramos Law Firm Attorney Chris Ebert.

The Home Loan Counseling Center is a Dallas County office whose mission is to increase home ownership in Dallas County. There are no obligations, costs or fees for offered services. Home loan counseling is provided to anyone interested in home ownership.

DCHHS offers many classes to help those considering home ownership. One of the first steps taken to buy a home is

evaluating your credit to ensure you have the best possible score to qualify for a mortgage loan.

DCHHS offers a monthly credit repair workshop, aimed to educate potential home buyers on how to improve their credit score to help qualify for a mortgage loan as well as how to maintain a good credit score.

The do it your self workshop equips potential buyers with understanding how to order a

free credit report, disputing incorrect or derogatory information, credit utilization, comparing hard inquiries vs soft inquiries, understanding how lenders review your credit report and guidance to increasing your credit score.

The monthly course is offered in conjunction with DCHHS' first time home buyers series and financial literacy courses offered at the main DCHHS

building at 2733 N Stemmons Freeway.

To participate in this class, registration is required. Residents can email HLCC@dallascounty.org or call 214-819-6060 to place a reservation.



HOMEBUYER SEMINAR SERIES

Every month we offer our free 3 part Homebuyer Seminar Series for anyone who wants to purchase a home. You will receive up-to-date, empowering & money saving information on the entire home buying process. We are a HUD Certified Counseling Agency and these seminars will satisfy any requirements for Homebuyer Education.

*Classes may fill up... Seating is first come... first served!

In addition to the Homebuyer Seminar Series we offer monthly classes in **Credit Repair for Mortgage Approval** and **Financial Literacy Seminar - Mastering Your Money, Mastering Your Life**

WE HOPE TO SEE YOU AT OUR NEXT CLASS!

Dallas County Home Loan Counseling Center
Dallas County Health & Human Services Bldg.
2733 N Stemmons Freeway, Room 701
Dallas, TX 75207

Office 214-819-6060 Fax 214-819-6069
Email: HLCC@dallascounty.org

UPFRONT COST ASSISTANCE PROGRAM (UPCAP) Dallas County Home Loan Counseling Center can provide you with UP TO \$7,500 IN CLOSING COST ASSISTANCE FIRST-TIME HOME BUYERS

If you are thinking of buying your first home but don't know how to cover some of the costs of purchasing a home, the Dallas County Upfront Cost Assistance Program (UPCAP) is here for you. Please contact us to see if you qualify for this FREE program. 214-819-6060

CLASS SCHEDULE MAY 2017

First Time Homebuyer Seminar Series

Seminar - Part #1 - Wednesday, May 3
5:30pm - 8:00pm

Seminar - Part #2 - Thursday, May 4
5:30pm - 8:00pm

Seminar - Part #3 - Thursday, May 11
5:30pm - 8:00pm

NO REGISTRATION IS NECESSARY

WE ALSO OFFER:

Credit Repair Workshop
Thursday, May 18, 2017
5:30pm - 8:00pm

Financial Literacy Seminar
Mastering Your Money, Mastering Your Life
Tuesday, May 23, 2017
5:30pm - 8:00pm



DCHHS
Safe families, healthy lives.

Dallas County Health and Human Services



Public Health Preparedness Division

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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

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