

PUBLIC HEALTH

PREPAREDNESS UPDATE


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DCHHS initiates mobilization of Hepatitis A vaccinations to homeless



Epidemiologist Kyoo Shim explains the importance of receiving the Hepatitis A vaccination.

Dallas County Health and Human Services' (DCHHS) announces multiple hepatitis A clinics with particular focus to the local homeless population.

The announcement of hepatitis A clinics comes shortly after the release of donated Hepatitis A vaccinations from the Texas Department of State Health Services (DSHS).

Between January 2017 and April of this year, the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) received nearly three thousand reports of Hepatitis A infections in multiple cities.

While Hepatitis A has become front and center of public health responses nationally, locally, Dallas County has not identified cases associated

with an outbreak.

"To date, Dallas County Health and Human Services has received four reported cases of Hepatitis A with two cases resulting in hospitalization," said Dr. Christopher Perkins, Dallas County Health Authority/Medical Director.

"Although reports of Hepatitis A infection remain low, we recognize the threat of an outbreak remains high amongst homeless populations."

Hepatitis A vaccinations were taken to the streets this past month with a special focus of administering Hepatitis A vaccinations to the Dallas Homeless.

Partnering with Austin Street Shelter, Union Gospel Mis-



Clients wait outside the mobile medical unit for vaccination. Health Administration Senior Secretary Jessica Maldonado provides information to potential patients.

sion, The Stewpot and Housing Crisis Center, DCHHS' immunization team administered more than 130 Hepatitis A vaccines to the Dallas homeless this past month.

"The Hepatitis A campaign is in response to the growing national concern of infection," said Ganesh Shivaramaiyer, DCHHS Interim Director.

"DCHHS' immunization, epidemiology and public health preparedness staff have been canvassing local shelters and surrendering areas to reach individuals at greatest risk. The vaccine requires two doses spread six months apart to have the greatest impact. DCHHS will offer the second dose at the visited locations,

as well as, the main DCHHS building on Stemmons."

For more information on adult vaccines, visit www.dallascounty.org/hhs/vaccine-fees.html.



Immunizations Nurse Chiedu Eleda, LVN administers Hepatitis A vaccination.

Environmental Health hosts mosquito-borne illness webinar



Left to right: Asst. Director Environmental Health Rudy Phillips, Immunizations Data Analyst Sunesh Chakravelil, DCHHS Public Health Educator Marisa Gonzales, Public Health Preparedness Manager Renee Owusu-Ansah, Vector Control Supervisor Aubrey Paolino, DCHHS Interim Director Ganesh Shivaramaiyer, Entomology/Vector Control Manager Scott Sawlis, Dallas County Health Authority/Medical Director Dr. Christopher Perkins.

DCHHS hosts the second webinar this year, with a focus regarding mosquito-borne illnesses in Dallas County.

The initiative was led by the Environmental Health division with a goal to expand the reach of community partners across Dallas County and to inform partners on best practices of prevention and mosquito control.

"Mosquitoes have always been a problem in Dallas County, due to weather conditions and frequent flooding along the Trinity River," said Rudy Phillips, Asst. Director of Environmental Health.

"Our mission is to prevent and control mosquito-borne viruses."

During the webinar, Public Health Educator, Marisa Gonzales, hosts the presentation while Dr. Christopher Perkins provides a clinical overview of West Nile, Dengue, Chikungunya and Zika.

Aubrey Paolino, Vector Control Supervisor, discusses mosquito diversity, the mosquito life cycle, mosquito-borne illnesses and prevention.

"Female blood meals are especially concerning as this is when humans may become infected if the mosquito is carrying disease.

Not only do blood meals welcome disease transmission, female mosquitoes often need to take a blood meal before they can produce eggs; resulting in increased mosquito activity."

Entomology/Vector Control Manager, Scott Sawlis, says that the primary concern for West Nile virus (WNV) transmission is the female *Culex quinquefasciatus* mosquito.

"The carrier for WNV is the *Culex quinquefasciatus* mosquito; we have been trapping and testing for these mosquitoes in areas throughout Dallas County to aid with our mosquito surveillance."

"Other species of concern for Dengue, CHIKV and Zika transmission are *Aedes albopictus* and *Aedes aegypti*. These species are also being collected."

The webinar also includes an overview of Dallas County's mosquito control response, as well as, shareable information for community partners and residents to use for personal protection efforts.

To learn more, visit www.dallascounty.org/hhs/news/HomePageNews/2018/Mosquito-borneIllnessPreventionWebinar.php.

Interim Director connects with Congresswoman Eddie Bernice Johnson



DCHHS joins the 30th District with Congresswoman Eddie Bernice Johnson's Senior Advisory Board in discussions regarding supporting older adults.

Initiatives regarding Older Americans and Alzheimer's Brain and Awareness Month were recognized, as well as, a discussion regarding

AARP's "Break in Silence" campaign.

Joining the conversation, DCHHS Interim Director, Ganesh Shivaramaiyer, discusses the public health response to the flu crisis earlier this year and efforts to address the older adult population in Dallas County.

Are you wearing insect repellent today?



On behalf of DCHHS' Public Health Preparedness division, Public Health Educator, Marisa Gonzales, provided insect repellent to the Dallas Police Department's NE Division Wellness & Safety Brunch held June 26.

Find your place with Dallas County's Home Loan Counseling Center



Homeownership may seem overwhelming to first time home buyers in today's busy market; from credit repair to housing-to-income ratio's, beginners are often lost to understanding the home buying process and lack the tools needed to close the deal.

Dallas County Home Loan Counseling Center (HLCC) works with residents to help them learn about homeownership and provides classes to those in need of credit repair and financial education.

Recently, HLCC celebrated National Homeownership Month by holding its annual homeownership fair.

During the event, residents were connected to a host of real estate professionals and resources such as licensed realtors, brokerage companies, lenders and housing specialists.

"Preparing residents for homeownership helps strengthens our community," said Anglinette Stratford, Home Loan Counseling Center Administrator.

"The education and resources provided by this fair empowers people to drive prosperity, not only with their finances but also with the tools they need to make healthier choices."

Strong Families Initiative: Families Who Give Their All

DCHHS emphasizes the importance of mothers and fathers to child development in this year's Strong Families Initiative.

The annual event held by the Dallas County Housing Agency brings together health education, employment opportunities and fun for the entire family.

During the event, Asst. Director, Thomas Lewis, provided a welcome to guests and Case Manager Jennifer Lee introduced services providers.

This year, guest speaker Dr. Christi Monk, discusses parents tapping into their core value system to be more active and influential.

ential.

"Our program means more than connecting families with needed services," said Thomas Lewis, Asst. Director of Housing.

"Strengthening the individual and family unit includes fostering the healthy development of parental relationships."

Acknowledgments were made by Landlord Coordinator, Deanna Gilmore, just before the fun began. Children enjoyed coloring, games and were also welcomed to enjoy a bite of popcorn. Closing the event, Housing Supervisor, Cristina Velez thanked the guest for their participation.



Children of the program captured enjoying popcorn during the family event.



Dallas County Housing Agency Asst. Director Thomas Lewis with Dallas County Housing team members clients and families.



Dallas Fire and Rescue captured providing information on fire safety for children.

DCHHS welcomes new Asst. Director of Administrative Programs

Dallas County Health and Human Services welcomes Kelly Hall as the new Assistant Director of Administrative Programs.

Ms. Hall has an extensive background in management, human resources, labor and employee relations. Most recently serving as a Personnel Analyst with Dallas County Human Resources, Ms. Hall

was assigned to DCHHS earlier this year to assist with the transition.

"I would like to thank Dallas County leadership for the opportunity to assist the employees of the Health and Human Services department. Rest assured, I will work diligently to serve the citizens of Dallas County with the utmost of my strength and ability."



DCHHS commemorates World Refugee Day

Immigration reform continues to be a topic of discussion nationally and locally. DCHHS aims to continue to aid those who are in need of being connected to basic public health services.

Every 4.1 seconds a person is displaced from his or her homeland as a result of war, famine, or natural disaster, leaving them vulnerable (CDC).

Health Nurse Practitioner Gabriella Udabor', Program Manager Christina Churu and Refugee Health Nurse Connie Dunlap, recently hosted DCHHS's refugee World Refugee Day celebration.

Throughout the day, staff discussed the development of health education strategies regarding monitoring the health of refugee populations.



Public Health Preparedness Division
2377 North Stemmons Freeway
Dallas, TX 75207
214-819-2000

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