

PUBLIC HEALTH

PREPAREDNESS UPDATE


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Ganesh Shivaramaiyer, Interim Director

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DCHHS launches series of public health webinars



Dallas County Health and Human Services (DCHHS) embarks on a journey by hosting a series of webinars for community partners, municipalities and subject matter experts to aid in community outreach and linkage to public health information

and services.

The initiative is an extension of DCHHS' 2017 Zika webinar held for local municipalities in Dallas County.

Expanding the scope of this effort, DCHHS Interim Director pushes the organization to become more efficient with educating, informing and empowering the community and partners associated with ongoing efforts.

Kicking off the webinar series, DCHHS held a closed setting webinar for Dallas County schools May 18 in an effort to facilitate the ongoing discussion of back-to-school immunizations.

"With the current school year

ending, we want to ensure parents and guardians begin to update their student's immunizations now," said Dr. Christopher Perkins, Dallas County health authority/medical director.

"Each year, last minute clients experience long lines and wait times to have their children vaccinated. This year, our preventative health team is reaching out to schools in Dallas County to promote the back to school immunizations campaign early."

The Back-to-School Immunizations webinar is the first of many series to come for public health initiatives lead by DCHHS.

This June, DCHHS Interim Director Ganesh Shivaramaiyer

sets his focus on Dallas County's Environmental Health team to host a mosquito control webinar for community partners. The webinar is scheduled to be held on June 15.

"Webinars have been well identified as an effective method to achieve the dissemination of information," said Interim Director Ganesh Shivaramaiyer.

"DCHHS will practice continued implementation of webinar series as they are a valuable strategy towards the use of technology and the applications associated with it."

For more information regarding DCHHS webinars, visit www.dallascounty.org/hhs/2018_homepage/news.html



Left to right: Financial Administration Coordinator Joshua Smetak, DCHHS Interim Director Ganesh Shivaramaiyer, Immunizations Data Analyst Sunesh Chakravelil, Dallas County Health Authority /Medical Director Dr. Christopher Perkins, Field Nurse Supervisor Barbara Davis and Public Health Educator Marisa Gonzales.

Season's first confirmation of West Nile

DCHHS' laboratory confirmed the first mosquito samples to test positive for West Nile virus (WNV) have been located in the 75062 zip code of Irving.

DCHHS is urging residents to take precaution against mosquitoes to borne illnesses. Mosquitoes are long spreaders of malaria, yellow fever as well as Zika,

Chikungunya and Dengue viruses.

This season, DCHHS reminds residents to use the 4Ds, most importantly wearing insect repellent containing DEET. To share WNV prevention materials, visit www.dallascounty.org/departments/hhs/westnile.html

Heat-related illnesses triple

Through prolonged heat and lack of hydration, an individual may be more prone to heat-related illness (HRI).

HRI is a set of preventable conditions varying from heat cramps, heat exhaustion and potentially fatal heat stroke.

Early recognition of symptoms are crucial to rapid diagnosis and treatment.

As temperatures continue to rise in Dallas County, residents are reminded to practice heat safety and stay hydrated.

DCHHS has begun to investigate and monitor reports of heat-related illnesses in Dallas County. Currently, 79 HRI have occurred, a spike in comparison to reports from the previous week.

Dallas County Health and Human Services Heat-Related Illness Surveillance Report

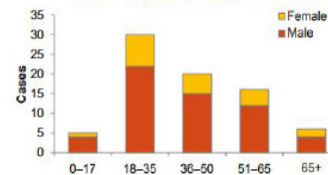


Week 21 ending May 26, 2018

Figure 1. Reported Heat-Related Illness (HRI) by Type

Week Ending	4/26	5/5	5/12	5/19	5/26	6/01	Total YTD
MMWR Week	17	18	19	20	21	22*	
Heat Cramps	0	0	4	4	7	15	30
Heat Exhaustion	0	3	2	5	8	21	41
Heat Stroke	0	1	1	0	0	6	8
Deaths*	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Total HRI	0	4	7	9	15	42	79

Figure 2. HRI Reports by Gender and Age



Collaborative goals of CEAP & Weatherization Programs create a winning combo

Families having difficulty with heating and cooling efficiency in their homes are not uncommon in Texas.

As temperatures rise during the summer months, lower-income families and individuals with a set income become challenged with increasing energy costs.

In a continued effort to help these families practice heat safety, DCHHS' Weatherization program helps improve the energy efficiency of homes through the hottest summers and colder

months. This past month, DCHHS' Weatherization team worked with resident Patricia Jones and her preschool-aged grandson to ensure her home was ready for scorching summer temperatures.

The team conducted glass replacement, sheetrock repair, patched holes in the floor, updated sidewall insulation, conducted duct replacement services, duct sealing, tuned up the air conditioning system, repaired plumbing leaks and a host of

other services. DCHHS Director Shivaramaier asked Mrs. Jones about the quality of work completed and how the services have impacted her home.

"I am very pleased and satisfied with the program," said Patricia Jones. "I've enjoyed the work and feel very blessed to have received the services."

Here at DCHHS, collaborative goals between divisions allow continued support of families in need and those most vulnerable to heat-related illnesses. Not

only was Ms. Jones approved for the weatherization program, the Comprehensive Energy Assistance Program (CEAP) joined the mission by offering Ms. Jones assistance with her utility bills from January through December for a total of \$1,200.

As the summer months continue to drive energy costs, DCHHS welcomes residents to seek assistance through both the Weatherization and CEAP programs offered by DCHHS.



Left to right: MVA Josh Vega, MVA Miguel Hernandez, Weatherization Program Coordinator Mario Garcia II, Weatherization Program Monitor Daniel Araiza, Client Patricia Jones and grandson, Weatherization Program Supervisor Yancey Turner, CEAP Manager Delores Lacy, Weatherization Program Inspector Sammy Alcorta and MVA Jesus Garcia.



Weatherization Program Supervisor Yancey Turner conducting a home assessment.

Reliant Energy's Beat the Heat Press Conference



Interim Director Ganesh Shivaramaier discusses heat safety, DCHHS' CEAP Program and Reliant Energy Cooling Centers.

Interim Director Ganesh Shivaramaier joined Reliant Energy at the 9th Annual Beat the Heat Press Conference held at the Martin Luther King (MLK) Jr. Community Center in Dallas.

Providing a welcome, MLK Jr. Community Center Manager Pamela Jones and West Dallas Multipurpose Center Manager Cobbie Ransom opened the press conference.

District 7 Dallas City Councilman Kevin Felder provided remarks on Reliant Beat the Heat Centers as well as

Reliant's Vice President of Customer Care Bill Clayton.

During the conference, Interim Shivaramaier provided tips on heat safety and hosts a round of interviews with Fox 4 and CW33.

"I would like to thank Reliant Energy Vice President Bill Clayton for the companies partnership as well as the City of Dallas for their efforts in opening cooling centers," said Interim Director Ganesh Shivaramaier.

"DCHHS is very appreciative to foster these ongoing partnerships."

DCHHS' Health & Wellness Fair ties to workplace wellness

DCHHS brings back its annual health and wellness fair this past month to promote healthier lifestyles among employees and the community.

Workplace wellness programs are a long-term investment in disease prevention and are a method to achieve better health outcomes. In an environment of national soaring healthcare costs, DCHHS continues to not only promote community wellness but employee wellness as well by offering a variety of health services during the fair.

During the fair, Dallas County Commissioner Dr. Elba Garcia joins the initiative and discusses outreach with Public Health Educators LaShonda Worthey, Marisa Gonzales and Britni Williams.

Williams.

"Along with hundreds of residents, Dallas County employees were able to take charge of their health by utilizing more than 20 health services provided," said LaShonda Worthey, public health educator. "One of the key services offered included cardiovascular screening. These health screenings improve assessment of cardiovascular risk, particularly in individuals who smoke and/or have a family history of heart disease, cholesterol disorders, high blood pressure, and/or diabetes. In addition to many other services offered at the health fair, Methodist Health Systems conducted on-site mammograms for participants in their mobile medical unit."



Left to right: Public Health Educator LaShonda Worthey, Commissioner Dr. Elba Garcia, Public Health Educator Marisa Gonzales and Public Health Educator Britni Williams.



Employee begins his cardiovascular screening.



Public Information Officer Renae Crutchfield outside of the Methodist Health Systems Mammography Unit.

Verna's Help Foundation Faith Award goes to Dr. Christopher Perkins

During the fall of 2014 Americans were met with fear and uncertainty when the first confirmed travel associated case of Ebola Virus Disease (EVD) in the United States was diagnosed in Dallas County.

During the public health crisis, Dr. Christopher Perkins played a critical role in DCHHS' response. In respect of his efforts, Dr. Perkins was

honored by Verna's Help Foundation as the recipient of the 2018 Faith Award along with Dallas County Judge Clay Jenkins.

In attendance, Dr. Perkins was awarded amongst many honorees including Dallas County District Attorney Faith Johnson and Dallas County Sheriff Marion Brown for other outstanding community works.

Older Adult Services connect with local health initiatives

Older Adult Services Program Manager Mark Edwards and Interim Director Ganesh Shivaramaier led the Older Americans Month initiative by participating in several events and health fairs during this past month. Participants were offered a wide variety of services offered through DCHHS including free flu shots and public health education materials.



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About This Newsletter

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