

PUBLIC HEALTH PREPAREDNESS UPDATE



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<http://www.dallascounty.org/hhs>

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West Nile Virus and Measles Update at PHAC

During the last Public Health Advisory Committee (PHAC) meeting, DCHHS delivered information on West Nile Virus (WNV) and Mosquito Control as well as measles updates. Mosquito season in North Texas runs from April through November, which means there are plenty of mosquitos ready to bite. In 2018, a total of 203 mosquito traps tested positive for WNV, 13 human cases were identified and 1 death occurred. “We have significantly increased our surveillance methods compared to what we used to do to what is now our standard procedures today,” said Scott Sawlis, DCHHS Mosquito Control Manager. Because WNV is endemic throughout Dallas County and there is such a variation in the severity of WNV for year to year, DCHHS routinely conducts the following:

- Regular, year-round, and thorough mosquito surveillance throughout the county
- Respond quickly when mosquitoes from a trap are positive for WNV
- Encourage all residents to practice personal protection from mosquito bites by practicing the 4Ds: Drain- standing water; use insect repellent that contains DEET; Dress-light colored, loose fitting clothing and Day/Night-Fight the Bite

Because WNV is endemic to Dallas County, mosquito surveillance is part of the Integrated Mosquito Management team’s daily activities during the summer months.

The second topic was a Measles Update presented by Epidemiologist, Folasuyi Richardson. Measles is a highly contagious infection. Up to 90% of close contacts who are not immune will become infected. Since it is airborne it is easily transmitted and can remain suspended in airspace for up to 2 hours. Measles cases are soaring in several states.



Epidemiologist, Folasuyi Richardson gives Measles Update at PHAC



Mosquito Control Manager, Scott Sawlis gives WNV update

DCHHS Holds Press Conference About Mosquito Season

DCHHS hosted their annual press conference warning Dallas County residents to get ready for mosquito season. County officials provided clinical updates and an overview of mosquito control surveillance for the 2019 season. “Each week we deploy traps throughout the county and those traps through the surveillance program, we identify West Nile virus mosquitos”, said Mosquito Control Manager, Scott Sawlis, “This is our battle rhythm every year.”

Sean Lemoine was stricken with West Nile neuroinvasive disease in 2009 at the age of 36. “People need to spray their kids and themselves when they’re in mosquito-infested areas,” he said. Lemoine gradually lost his ability to walk, talk and even breathe on his own. He fought for his life for six months because of one little mosquito bite.

“We don’t think of something as seemingly harmless as a mosquito bite causing really serious, life-changing illness, bit it really can,” said Dr. Philip Huang, DCHHS Director. “That’s why every year as mosquito season starts, we remind people about the severity of



L-R: Scott Sawlis, Mosquito Control Manager; Dr. Christopher Perkins, DCHHS Medical Director; Sean Lemoine-West Nile virus survivor; Dr. Philip Huang-Director; Rudy Phillips-Assistant Director Environmental Health (press conference)

mosquito-borne illness.”

Media partners were granted access to the DCHHS laboratory where mosquito lab processes were allowed to be photographed and recorded in preparation of this year’s mosquito

season. The event also included hands on opportunity to photograph and video BG Sentinel and Gravid mosquito traps which bait and collect mosquito species capable of disease transmission, laboratory testing and spray truck.

DCHHS Implements Diabetes Prevention Program

DCHHS kicked off their Diabetes Prevention Program (DPP) this month. The National Diabetes Prevention Program was created by CDC in 2010 to address the increasing burden of prediabetes and type 2 diabetes in the United States. This national effort created partnerships between public and private organizations to offer evidence-based, cost-effective interventions that help to prevent type 2 diabetes in communities across the United States. One key feature of the National DPP is the CDC recognized lifestyle change program, a research-based program focusing on healthy eating and physical activity which showed that people with prediabetes who take part in a structured lifestyle change program can cut their risk of developing type 2 diabetes by 58% (71% for people over 60 years old). The sooner you know you have prediabetes, the sooner

you can take action to reverse it and prevent type 2 diabetes. Take the risk test <https://www.cdc.gov/prediabetes/takethetest/> For more information about the DCHHS DPP call 214-819-2034.



L-R: Veronica Smith, Francine Cano, Woldu Amenshoo, Janecia Holley

West Nile Virus and Measles Update at PHAC (Continued from page 1)

There have been 555 individual cases of measles confirmed in 20 states as of April 11, 2019. Six outbreaks are currently on going in 2019. Texas identified 9 measles cases in 2018, so far 15 cases have been confirmed in 2019. Dallas County identified 1 new case in 2019. The person was exposed to the virus at work and voluntarily quarantined themselves so no one else was potentially exposed. “The whole epi staff was successful in controlling the exposed patient. They worked with Tarrant County Health Department, the employer and everyone to really control this so there was no public exposure”, said Dr. Philip Huang, DCHHS Director/Health Authority. “This is a true public health success story.”

DCHHS Partners with American Diabetes Association and Commissioner Theresa Daniel to Announce Risk Test Campaign

Dallas County District 1 Commissioner Dr. Theresa Daniel and the American Diabetes Association (ADA) announced the ADA Risk Test Campaign. In partnership with Clear Channel Outdoor, Blue Cross Blue Shield has sponsored 25 billboards in English and Spanish that will be displayed throughout Dallas County to encourage residents

to know their risk for type 2 diabetes by taking the free ADA Risk Test. Type 2 diabetes is a major health concern in the U.S. and disproportionately impacts African Americans and Latinos. Without intervention, 15 to 30 percent of those with prediabetes will develop type 2 diabetes over the following 5 years. “To help us we need education about

the risks and signs of diabetes”, said Commissioner Dr. Theresa Daniel. “Two parts of the community education include billboard campaign currently underway as well as the online risk test. It takes less than 3 minutes”, she continued to say. The need for diabetes screening is critically important for local communities in District 1 and across Dallas County.



L-R: Dr. Leslie Weisberg, BCBS; Commissioner Dr. Theresa Daniel; Ted Gebhardt, American Diabetes Association; Dr. Phil Huang, DCHHS; Dr. Luigi Meneghini, Parkland Global Diabetes Program; and Teresa Moore, DFW Clear Channel Outdoor

Older Adult Services Partners with City of Dallas

In celebration of Older Americans Month, Dallas County partnered with the City of Dallas to provide more than 500 meals to seniors during the opening week of the congregate meal program (May 6) at the WellMed Redbird Senior Center. Each year Dallas County Health and Human Services Older Adult Services Program provides 200,000 meals and 90,000 trips at seventeen senior centers to address food insecurity, promote socialization, and support the health and well-being of older adults through nutrition and related services. For more information about Older Adult Services or to find a Senior Center near you call 214-819-1862.



L-R: Commissioner Elba Garcia and Mark Edwards, Program Administrator



Dallas County and City of Dallas staff seen preparing meals for seniors.

DCHHS Honors Employees at Service Pin Award Ceremony

On April 24, 2019, DCHHS employees were recognized for their years of services and commitment. Congratulations to the DCHHS employees who achieved their milestone tenure.



L-R: Keseste Yohannes; Carol Miller; Francine Cano; Jeannette Stevens; Britini Brown; Alex Rai; Carmen Cervantes; Barbara Jernigan; Saad Mustafa; Elizabeth Burleson; Tonya Ponder; Edna Turner; Dawnn Walker; Neethu Kuriakose; Connie Harkins



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DCHHS
Safe families, healthy lives
Dallas County Health and Human Services



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