



October 2009 Executive Report

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CEO & Health Authority
Galveston County & Cities

The Pulse of the District.....

- **Planning H1N1 Mass Vaccinations for High-Risk groups**
- **Food Service Inspection Scores Now Online**

STOP THE FLU Campaign

In addition to extensive public education campaigns, GCHD has the following "Phase Plan" to administer H1N1 vaccines to the public, based on CDC risk groups:

- Phase I – An initial small supply of vaccine (mostly nasal) was allocated to the 4C's for pregnant women and children and given to GCHD EMS workers – DONE
- Phase II – few hundred doses for completing GCHD healthcare workers and first responders in Galveston county and cities – Tuesday October 27 through Thursday, 9-12.
- Phase III – mass vaccinate county high risk groups (Fri Oct 30 and Sat 31st)
- Phase IV – mass vaccinate any county resident (TBA)

From August 1 to October 28, Galveston County Health District has received a total of 851 positive flu cases (99 H1N1, 395 Flu A, 3 Flu B, 354 Undifferentiated Flu). Reported to date, are 6 hospitalizations and one death in a 31 year old Galveston Island resident. CDC surveillance shows that 99% of all surveyed influenza viruses are determined to be 2009 influenza A (H1N1) viruses. GCHD activities include:

- Continued tracking of reports from medical community and ISDs.
- Plans to give **seasonal flu vaccinations** were the subject of a press release issued on October 1st found at www.gchd.org/press/2009/flu-2009.htm. As of October 23rd, Immunization staff has administered 349 flu vaccinations at the Nessler Center, Wayne Johnson Community Center, Bacliff Community Center and the Dickinson Community Center. Seasonal vaccinations were also provided at the Mall of the Mainland Senior Expo and the Cottages of Clear Lake. 380 seasonal flu vaccinations were also given to at risk Health District employees.
- Daily maintenance of District's H1N1 flu site: www.gchd.org/press/2009/H1N1information.htm. The site also contains a link to a downloadable poster with information on proper hand washing at www.gchd.org/press/images/h1n1_handwashing8.5x11.pdf and a video demonstration of proper hand washing at www.gchd.org/chn/Kurt-Handwashing.html.
- A press release was issued on October 27th announcing plans for a mass vaccination event to be held at Mall of the Mainland on the weekend of October 30th. The release stressed that vaccinations would be primarily for CDC designated high-risk populations. The release is posted on the District web site at www.gchd.org/press/2009/H1N1-at-MOM.htm.
- Federal dollars for public health emergency preparedness for H1N1 flu season were used to erect two **billboards** in Galveston County promoting flu prevention. One billboard is on SH146 and the other on I45. The billboard image is also posted on the District website at www.gchd.org. Below is a photograph of the billboard on I45.



- **H1N1 & Tamiflu Available in the 4C's** - The clinics received Tamiflu and its first shipment of H1N1 vaccine for registered 4C's patients. High risk groups targeted for both products are listed at www.gchd.org.
- **GAAA Staff Protected from H1N1** – GAAA staff have been vaccinated for the seasonal flu as well as the H1N1 strain. All staff that chose not to take the H1N1 vaccine is required to wear a mask to protect themselves and others while caring for the public.

Food Establishment Inspections Online

The Environmental Health Services Division of the Galveston County Health District (GCHD) is now posting results of food service establishment inspections on its website. Users can simply enter the name of a food facility and its location to view the results of health inspections. Posted information includes the dates of inspections conducted in the previous two years and any major violations noted. Major violations are those associated with specific risk factors that may contribute to incidents of food borne illness. Posted information on dates of inspections and violations can now be searched at <http://decadeonline.com/main.phtml?agency=gchd>.

Recognizing the Public Health Workforce

The Health District's third annual Employee Awards and Service Recognition Ceremony will be held Thursday, November 5, 2009, at the Wayne Johnson Community Center starting at 6:30 p.m. Awards will be given for years of service to GCHD, overall performance and specific recognition, and 2009 Employees of the Year by functional areas of GCHD.

Office of Public Information: For more information, please contact Kurt Koopmann, Public Information Officer, at (409) 938-2211 or email (kkoopman@gchd.org).

- Proposed revisions to the **Order Establishing Permitting and Enforcement of State Law and Rules for Public and Semi-Public Swimming Pools and Spas** were posted on the GCHD web site October 5th. A summary of the revisions with a link to the entire Order can be accessed at www.gchd.org/boards/2009/UBofH-Swimming-Pools9-30-09.pdf.
- A story on a reported increase in the number of **rodents on Galveston Island** post Hurricane Ike was published in the *Galveston County Daily News* on October 8th found www.gchd.org/press/2009/Rats%20increase%20090809.htm.
- Public Information responded to numerous media inquires about the scheduled **mass vaccination event** on October 27th. Inquiries were received from the *Houston Chronicle*, *Channel 11*, *Texas City Post*, and *The Galveston County Daily News*.

4C's Clinic Updates: For more information, please contact Patrick Butler, 4C's Business Director, at (409) 949-3406 or email pbutler@gchd.org or Pam Jahnke, RN, Strategic Plan Evaluator at (409) 938-2256 or email pjahnke@gchd.org.

- **Medical Provider Update** – Two new Dentist, Leslie Scruggs, DDS. and Janice Reardon, DDS., will be joining the 4C's Dental Team over the next month. With the filling of these two positions, there is only one dentist vacancy for which an applicant has been interviewed.
- **Changes to Title V Maternal Child Health** - Changes include the addition of a few new services and the requirement that providers use a standardized developmental screening tool by 2011. Staff is currently working on a Plan of Correction for findings from the DSHS Title V program site visit in July for identified improvements needed in state-required documentation.

- **4C's Saturday Clinic** – Saturday Clinics continues to be successful with medical visits increasing from 18 to 40 and dental visits increasing from 7 to 12 from the initial start date of Saturday, June 6, 2009 to Saturday, October 17, 2009. On Saturdays, the Texas City Clinic is open from 10:00 to 5:00 for all Galveston County residents, both insured and uninsured, as walk-ins only. More information about the Saturday clinic may be viewed at: www.gchd.org/4cs/Saturdays.htm
- **Pharmacy Services** – Executive Staff are still looking to the future and continue to explore ways to meet the Pharmacy needs of all 4C's patients in the coming years. Executive Staff participated in a conference call with Lynn Ford from the Texas Association of Community Health Centers (TACHC) to discuss the challenges that Federally Qualified Health Centers (FQHC's) face in providing Pharmacy Services in Texas and discussed pharmacist shortages, as well as, alternative, efficient, and effective ways to provide Pharmacy Services to 4C's Patients.
- **Head Start** – The 4C's has contracted with the *Texas City Independent School District's Cooperative Head Start, Galveston County Community Action Council – Head Start program, and Hitchcock Independent School District's Cooperative Head Start* to provide Developmental Examinations and Physical Examinations, as well as Dental Examinations to participants. The 4C's has successfully provided services with the Texas City Head Start program seeing 33 children, as well as, the Hitchcock Head Start program seeing 19 in medical and 24 dental children. The 4C's is scheduled to screen Galveston Head Start children in early December.

Office of Community Health Services: For more information, please contact Cassandra Arceneaux, MD, MPH, Director of Community Health Programs at (409) 938-2456 or email carceneaux@gchd.org.

- **Senior Health Outreach Activities** - Charles Kelly, Health District Senior Health Coordinator continued to promote senior health this month through the topic "Influenza". Approximately 358 seniors were educated and vaccinated against the seasonal influenza virus. Charles Kelly participated in the Senior Expo where over 300 seniors attended.
- **Health Fairs** - During the month of October, GCHD staff participated in 3 health fairs at 1. **La Marque Middle School** Open House/Resource Fair on Thursday, 9/24, 6-8pm; 2. **Moody Gardens/Texas Association of School Administrators and Boards Annual Conference for Professionals**, on Friday 10/2, 8-5pm; and 3. **The 6th Annual Children's Safety Fair** on Saturday 10/7, Hosted by BP and the Mall of the Mainland. A total of 897 persons were reached and provided ImmuTrac, GCHD Brochures, incentives, and all services materials/pamphlets.

Office of Environmental Health Services: For more information, please contact Ronnie Schultz, Director of Environmental Health Services, at (409) 938-2314 or email rschultz@gchd.org

- **Animal Investigations** - Animal Control Officers responded to a complaint in Bacliff of numerous fowl living in poor conditions along with several deceased animals. Investigation revealed that the elderly owner had become bed bound and was transported to the hospital. The owner was contacted and surrendered the remaining 65 chickens and ducks to animal control who found homes for all. In San Leon, Animal Control Officers responded to a report of exotic animals living within a residential property. The resident was found to be keeping a wallaby and two squirrels without the proper permits. The owner surrendered the animals and the wallaby was transferred to Houston Humane pending a permanent wildlife refuge placement and the squirrels were released to a Texas Parks and Wildlife registered rehabilitator.
- **Halloween at the Animal Shelter** - The animal shelter will be hosting an open house Halloween event on Oct 31st from noon to 4pm. All cat adoptions will be 2 for 1 that day only. Animal Alliance spay/neuter clinic will be contributing the cost of the spay/neuter and rabies shots for this event. A costume contest for pets and candy for the children will be provided.

Office of Emergency Medical Services: For more information, please contact Trey Frankovich, LP, EMS Director, (409) 765-2524 or tfrankovich@gchd.org or Mary McClure, GAAA Business Director, (409) 938-2336 or mmcclure@gchd.org.

- **Staffing** - GAAA currently has 7 paramedic and 1 EMT openings. There is one paramedic and two EMTs that are currently in the hiring process.

- **Bolivar Operations** – GAAA has been operating the Crystal Beach 911 service since October 1st providing 24/7 coverage. Staff and one EMS unit are following GAAA medical protocols.

Disease & Disaster Preparedness: For additional information, contact Dana Beckham, DVM, Chief Epidemiologist, at (409) 938-2322 or email dbeckham@gchd.org or Mike Carr, Public Health Preparedness Manager, at (409) 938-2333 or email mcarr@gchd.org.

- **Elevated Blood Lead Cases (Galveston)** – In the month of September, the Health District received 2 elevated blood lead cases both residing in the City of Galveston. For 2009, there is a total of 12 confirmed elevated blood lead level (EBLL). All cases are referred to Community Health Nursing for a home assessment. Levels at 20µg/dL or above also receive an environmental lead investigation to determine the source.
- **Probable Bacterial Meningitis in Texas City** - A 4-year old male Texas City resident was reported as a probable case of bacterial meningitis. GCHD Epidemiology services disseminated a letter to Hitchcock Head Start to notify parents and staff about the case and provide information regarding the type of infection. Eighteen students and 2 teachers received prophylaxis as well as 8 household and close contacts.
- **Public Health Advisories** - Since September 16th, Epidemiology Services has disseminated 6 public health advisories to hospitals, healthcare providers, superintendents of ISD schools, emergency departments, and emergency managers on September 16th, October 2nd, October 16th, October 20th, 22nd and 23rd. Five of the six advisories focused on H1N1 updates regarding vaccinations, reporting criteria, flu prevention, vaccine allocations and planning resources from the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention. The October 20th advisory informed area providers of a confirmed case of imported measles in Houston.

Signed RFP's, Grants, Contracts & Agreements: For more information, please contact Kristina M. Garcia, JD, Compliance Auditor, at (409) 938-2213 or email kgarcia@gchd.org

- **Temporary Payroll and Benefit Administrator** for Mainland Children's Partnership agreement was signed by COO on October 7, 2009. The District agrees to provide this service for a short period of time in order to allow MCP time to seek another entity to perform this professional service. The term is September 1, 2009 to September 1, 2010. The District will invoice MCP for expenditures resulting from payroll and benefits.
- **DSHS EMS Local Projects funding agreement** was signed by COO on October 10, 2009. The amount awarded was \$7,767.00 to fund project supplies one video conferencing hub and two video conferencing units. The term is October 15, 2009 to August 31, 2010.
- **Nursing Education Program Clinical Externship Memorandum of Understanding** with the University of Mary, a North Dakota non-profit corporation, was signed by COO on October 12, 2009. The agreement will be in effect for 3 years unless terminated. The District will allow these students to work in Community Health Nursing during this clinical externship.
- **Internet Access Network Interface and Internet Access Bandwidth Service Agreement** with Comcast Commercial Services, LLC was signed by COO on October 20, 2009. The term is for twenty-four (24) months. Non-recurring charges of \$1000.00 and monthly recurring charges of \$2,550.00.
- **DSHS contract amendment to change equipment order specs and model # for trailer** to the Community Preparedness Section/Bioterrorism Discretionary Fund Projects Phase II was signed by COO on October 26, 2009. No change in funding. Contract effective date June 3, 2009.
- **UpToDate an on-line medical resource to assist in clinical diagnostic services addendum** was signed by COO on October 23, 2009. The term is February 1, 2010 to January 31, 2011. The one year subscription fee is \$5,925.00. The fee increased \$345.00 from last year.

Environmental Health Programs – Notices September 2009

Animal Control – warnings and citations(dogs running at large, no registration, cruelty, etc)	201
Air Pollution (violation of state air regulations, permits, excessive emissions, etc)	2
Food Services (violations of food service policy requiring voluntary closure, court actions, etc.)	0
Food Services (letters sent for operating with an expired food service permit)	45
Public Health Nuisances (trash and high weeds, violations of health and safety code)	33
On-Site Septic Systems (violation of on-site policy)	2
Water Pollution (improper disposal, sewage leaks, grease trap violations, etc)	3



STOP THE FLU!

**Galveston County
Health District**

409-938-7221
www.gchd.org

- Wash your hands
- Stay home if sick
- Cover your cough
- Flu Shot



*A Monthly Report of
 The Galveston County Health District.
 For more information regarding this document,
 Contact Pisa Lewis, Executive Assistant, plewis@gchd.org or
 409-938-2401 or Kurt Koopmann, PIO, at kkoopman@gchd.org
 or 409-938-2211*