

Agency Overview, Environmental Health, & Emergency Preparedness

Texas Environmental Health Association

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Welcome



Presentation Outline

- General overview of DSHS
- Overview of DSHS' Division of Regulatory Services and the Environmental & Consumer Safety Section
- Challenges for environmental health programs
- Continuity of operations (COOP) planning
- The ultimate COOP challenge: pandemic flu

Texas Department of State Health Services (DSHS) became operational September 1, 2004



Health Department

Substance Abuse Agency

Mental Health Agency

DSHS is the 4th largest of 178 Texas state agencies

Prevention & Preparedness

- Prepares for bioterrorism & natural disasters in Texas
- Works to prevent, control & eliminate infectious diseases
- Promotes immunizations to reduce diseases in children & adults
- Investigates diseases & community health problems & applies prevention & intervention strategies
- Promotes healthy lifestyles through tobacco intervention, school health & worksite wellness programs

Direct Care & Other Services

- Nutrition Program For Women, Infants & Children (WIC) provides benefits, nutrition education & counseling for almost 1 million Texans monthly
- County Indigent Health Care Program helps Texas counties serve indigent populations
- Children With Special Health Care Needs provides care to children with physical & developmental disabilities & adults with cystic fibrosis
- Vital Records records births, deaths, marriage & divorce in Texas

Mental Health & Substance Abuse Services

- Community Mental Health Services for adults & children through NorthSTAR and 39 Local Mental Health Authorities that contract with mental health providers
- Substance Abuse Treatment Programs provide a continuum of chemical dependency treatment services in therapeutic environments
- More than 2 million Texans received DSHS-funded substance abuse prevention or treatment last year

DSHS Has 157 Sites Across Texas Including:

- 9 state adult psychiatric hospitals for severely mentally ill needing intensive treatment
- 1 youth psychiatric hospital for adolescents with mental illness
- 2 public health facilities for infectious disease control & out-patient services for needy

Consumer Protection Services

- DSHS licenses, certifies or registers more than 200,000 professionals
- Health care licensure & regulations include:
 - Food and Drug Safety
 - Environmental and Radiation Control
 - Health Care Facilities
 - & Health Care Professionals

HEALTH SERVICE REGIONS

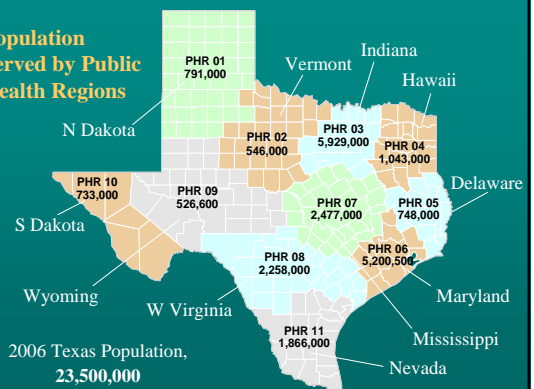
Each Regional Office Provides:

- Direct services
- Health promotion and disease prevention
- Disease investigation and control
- Consumer health services
- Public health preparedness services
- A single point of access for DSHS

Regional Offices

- Each Regional Office is led by a licensed physician with expertise in medicine & public health
- Regional offices work with local health departments throughout the state
- Regional offices serve as the local health department in 187 Texas counties where none exists

Population Served by Public Health Regions



DSHS Division for Regulatory Services

DSHS Division for Regulatory Services

- 8 units
- 11 independent boards
- >100 regulatory areas
- Regulates >100,000 facilities
- Licenses ~ 200,000 professionals
- ~800 staff, 500 in Austin

DSHS Environmental Health & Consumer Safety Programs

- Meat Group
- Drugs & Medical Devices Group
- Radiation Group
- Foods Group
- Foods Establishment Group
- Seafood & Aquatic Life Group
- Environmental Health Group
- Milk Group

DSHS Environmental Health & Consumer Safety Regulates

Meat Plants	Tattoo & Body Piercing Studios	Lunch Trucks
	Restaurants	Grocery Stores
Radioactive Materials	Drugs	Tanning Facilities
	Cosmetics	Asbestos
Bedding	Mold	Dairy Plants
	Radon	Oysters
School Inspections	Lead	Swimming Pools
	And more!	

The DSHS Environmental Health Experts Present Later

- Meat Safety Program: Roger Drews, 3-4 pm 10/17
- Licensing & Enforcement for Tattoo, Body Piercing & Tanning Facilities, Brad O'Donnell, 10-11 am, 10/18
- Sanitation in Daycares: Michael Minoia, 1:30-2:30 pm, 10/18
- Conference on Food Protection: Ruth Hendy, 3-5 pm, 10/18
- Food Safety & Food Management: Deborah Marlow, 11-12 noon, 10/19

Staff Challenges

- Rapid growth in multiple industries
 - ~93,000 facilities, <300 investigators
- Technological advances in food, drugs and manufacturing processes
- Importation of more foods, drugs and other manufactured goods
- Border with Mexico (cheese & candy)
- Federal oversight
- Some businesses dislike regulation

A Different Kind of Challenge

- DSHS Division of Regulatory Services regulates >100,000 facilities & businesses in Texas & licenses ~200,000 individuals.
- In June, 2007, the building that houses the Division flooded after a water pipe broke
- The damage was so severe, especially on the 1th floor, that the building was closed for 19 days
- All DSHS environmental health & consumer safety programs were on the 1st floor

Continuity of Operations Planning

- An all hazards approach attempts to plan for disruptions from any source: flood, fire, hurricane, terrorist attack, electrical outage or flu pandemic
 - Flooding can be caused by man-made as well as natural disasters
- The plan must identify critical services and developing contingency plans to maintain them
 - The flood showed just how critical our licensing services were to maintain: daily applications from ~500 people and 100 facilities
- The plan must also define procedures for alerting, notifying, activating & deploying employees
 - The flooding knocked out our services, but DSHS set up a command center to respond promptly

Continuity of Operations (COOP) Planning: Core Components

- Plans & Procedures
- Mission Essential Functions
- Delegations of Authority
- Orders of Succession
- Alternate Facilities
- Interoperable Communications
- Vital Records & Databases
- Logistics & Administration
- Personnel Issues & Coordination
- Security
- Testing, Training & Exercises

Pandemic Flu – the Ultimate COOP Planning Challenge

- A flu pandemic could spread across the country in weeks, if not days
- No community should expect to be spared
- Unlike other natural disasters...a pandemic could last 6 months...with extended school & business closures...high absenteeism...and extended shortages of essential goods & services
- You do not have time to start planning after the pandemic starts

Why the Concern Now?

- All influenza viruses have the ability to change
- H5N1 – Avian Flu is increasing around the world in birds/chickens
- The death rate for humans is over 60%
- 1918 (H1N1) Flu and H5N1 are the only “Kissing Cousins” among the 169 known Avian Flu viruses
- Historically, world is “overdue” for a pandemic
 - 32 Pandemics in the last 400 years

Impacts of past pandemics

PANDEMIC	ACTUAL U.S. DEATHS	2007 Equivalent	POPULATION AFFECTED
Spanish Flu 1918-1919	548,452	1,565,155 50x seasonal rate	Infants and elderly similar to seasonal flu; Persons 20-40 years old
Asian Flu 1957-1958	70,000	122,000 4 x seasonal rate	Infants and elderly similar to seasonal flu
Hong Kong Flu 1968-1969	36,000	53,810 Twice the seasonal rate	Infants and elderly similar to seasonal flu

Expected Impact of a Pandemic

- Possible world-wide spread within weeks
- All age groups affected
- Current public health and medical care capacities overwhelmed at all levels
- Simultaneous impacts across the U.S.,
 - limits ability to provide support & assistance
- Likely shortages & delays in the availability of vaccines and antiviral drug
- Disruption of national & community infrastructures: transportation, commerce, utilities & public safety

Pandemic Influenza Projections Austin area 1.3 million people

No. of casualties	1st wave	2nd wave
• Illnesses	326,657	65,332
• Hospitalizations	13,067	2,614
• Deaths	5,553	1,111

Source: Austin Travis County Health Department

Responding to a Flu Pandemic: Tools in our Toolbox

- **Antiviral medications**
- **Vaccinations**
- **Community mitigation strategies such as social distancing**
- **Planning, training & exercises**

Antiviral Medications for Influenza

- If given within 48 hours of exposure or before exposure antivirals may:
 - prevent disease, but only while medication is taken
 - no long term protection
- If given within 48 hours of symptoms antivirals may:
 - Reduce length of illness by 1-2 days
 - Prevent severe complications

Pandemic Influenza Vaccines

- Development of an effective vaccine is considered the cornerstone for controlling a global influenza pandemic
- No country will have adequate supplies of vaccine until many months after the pandemic begins
- Worldwide production capacity is about 300 million doses of trivalent vaccine per year
- Commercial production cannot begin prior to emergence and characterization of the pandemic virus.

Reference: WHO

Social Distancing, St. Louis, 1918

“I hereby order that all theaters, moving picture shows, schools, pool and billiard halls, Sunday, schools, cabarets, lodges, societies, public funerals, open air meetings, dance halls and conventions to be at once closed and discontinued until further notice.”

– Mayor Keil October 7, 1918

Social Distancing - St. Louis, 1918

- Decisive leadership
- Support from key decision makers
- News media informed and engaged the public
- Influenza made a reportable disease
- Schools & other public closings, enforced by police
- 14-day quarantine
- 4-day closing of all businesses

1918 Flu/Pneumonia Death Rates per/1000 by City

City	Death Rate
Boston	5.7
Philadelphia	7.4
Chicago	3.5
New York	4.1
Pittsburgh	6.3
San Francisco	4.7
Los Angeles	3.3
St. Louis	2.2

*Causes of Geographical Variation in the Influenza Epidemic of 1918 in the Cities of the United States, Bulletin of the National Research Council, July, 1923, p.29.

Disasters

- Limited in scope to a certain area
- Limited in time from minutes to days
- Visible evidence
- Material casualties predominate
- Local material aid & state/federal response
- Localized economic impact

Pandemics

- Widespread geographic impact
- Occur in 6 week to 2 month waves
- Invisible evidence
- Human casualties predominate
- State/federal response limited
- Widespread economic crisis

Summary

- A flu pandemic as virulent as that of 1918 could last longer & cost more lives than any other threat
- Partnerships are critical to our success, not only federal state & local, but also public & private
- Planning for Continuation of Operations is extremely important
- Integrated planning & exercises are essential
- Legal preparations to implement social distancing will be critical in the event of a pandemic

Partners in Health & Preparedness

- Your work is critical to consumer health & safety
- We are committed to supporting your "front" line efforts
- As lead agency for Emergency Support Function 8 (health & medical), we recognize how vital you are to our emergency preparedness & response planning
- Thank you for your service & dedication