

Public Health Emergency Preparedness

BRAZORIA COUNTY HEALTH DEPARTMENT

PUBLIC HEALTH MATTERS

AUGUST 2010



MISSION STATEMENT

BRAZORIA COUNTY WILL BE PREPARED FOR AND READY TO RESPOND TO A HEALTH AND MEDICAL EVENT DUE TO EITHER A MAN-MADE OR NATURAL DISASTER

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Dr. LEO O'GORMAN GETS HIS DAY!

PROCLAMATION

WHEREAS; Dr. Leo O'Gorman has faithfully served as the first and only Brazoria County Health Authority for the past 27 years; and

WHEREAS; Dr. O'Gorman is Board Certified in Public Health and is considered an expert in the treatment of Tuberculosis. He is known throughout the state for his experience, expertise and enthusiasm; and

WHEREAS; Dr. O'Gorman is a kind-hearted physician who is dedicated to the care of his patients. Throughout his years of service to our county he has made numerous house calls and has even driven TB patients to San Antonio for treatment in his private vehicle; and

WHEREAS; Dr. O'Gorman has been a constant presence in an ever-changing health care environment. He has implemented and supervised many varied programs under the umbrella of the Health Department; and

WHEREAS; The lives of many residents of Brazoria County have been saved due the dedication of this exemplary, extraordinary man; and

WHEREAS; Dr. Leo O'Gorman is a dedicated family man whose high character is admired and appreciated by the Commissioner's Court and employees of Brazoria County; and


WHEREAS; The Commissioners' Court of Brazoria County is honored to recognize Dr. Leo O'Gorman for his 27 years of service, loyalty and friendship to our great County,

NOW, THEREFORE, the Brazoria County Commissioners' Court does hereby proclaim July 29, 2010 as

DR. LEO O'GORMAN DAY

in Brazoria County, Texas


APPROVED this 27th day of July, 2010.



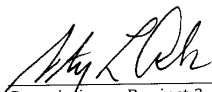
Commissioner, Precinct 1
Donald "Dude" Payne



County Judge E.J. King



Commissioner, Precinct 2
L.M. "Matt" Sebesta, Jr.



Commissioner, Precinct 3
Stacy L. Adams





Commissioner, Precinct 4
Mary Ruth Rhodenbaugh

"I spoke from years of good experiences with our county health authority. When I was a school trustee, our superintendent shared his praises for the very helpful counsel that Dr.O'Gorman provided to him. On another occasion, as a family physician I was accompanied by Dr.O'Gorman on a Saturday house call to evaluate a child with a rash that could have signaled a measles outbreak. As a citizen Of Brazoria County, I am very appreciative of the fine service that Dr. O'Gorman and the rest of the department have provided us over the years. Thanks," Dr. J.C. DeWitt

"Leo, congratulations on your retirement! After 27 years with the County, this is well deserved and I hope you enjoy the free time and family. Best regards, we wish you the best." Dr. Michael Carson

TIME TO GO BACK TO SCHOOL—ARE YOUR CHILD'S VACCINATIONS UP-TO-DATE?

Whooping Cough Now Epidemic in California

LOS ANGELES (KABC) -- State health officials say whooping cough is now an epidemic in California and is on pace to break a 50-year record for infections and deaths for the year.

A typical case of the disease, formally called pertussis, starts with a cough and runny nose for one to two weeks, followed by weeks to months of rapid coughing fits that sometimes end with a whooping sound.

In L.A. County, there have been 148 suspected cases so far, 70 of which have been confirmed in a lab. And experts expect it to exceed the number of cases last year.

In an average year, L.A. County has one or no deaths from pertussis, but this year two infants have died from it.

Infants under a year are at the highest risk for developing the most severe and possibly even fatal complications.

"Babies when they get to that stage they are at high risk of having apnea," said California Department of Public Health director Dr. Mark Horton. "That can lead to a lesser blood flow to their brain. It can lead to seizures and death."

A recent study showed 41 percent of infants with

whooping cough got it from a sibling. Thirty-eight percent got it from their mother and 17 percent from their father.

"If you are immunized as an adult then you are not at risk of being infected. And since most infants acquire the infection from adults the more likely we can save babies," said Dr. Horton.

All the more reason children between the ages of 4 and 6 should get immunized against it. It is also important to make sure kids get a booster shot during their preteen year.

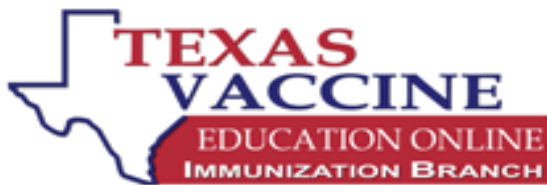
Teens or adults who haven't had a pertussis booster should get one, especially if they live in a household with an infant.

One possible factor in the rise of whooping cough can be attributed to parents who don't want to vaccinate their kids.

Besides immunizations, make sure kids cover their coughs to help prevent the spread of whooping cough. Basic hygiene, like hand washing, helps too.

If you or your child develops a cough that's accompanied by a whooping sound or vomiting, contact your doctor right away.

WANT TO LEARN MORE ABOUT WHOOPING COUGH VACCINE?



<http://www.vaccineeducationonline.org/>



Emergency Management officials from Brazoria and Matagorda Counties met June 28th and 29th in College Station to discuss hurricane preparedness plans and activities. The Texas Engineering Extension Service hosted and directed the training at their facility in College

Six Cases of Vibrio infections reported to BCHD in June and July

Public Health Emergency Preparedness is responsible for monitoring infectious diseases in Brazoria County. Reports are made by physicians, hospitals, labs, and others for 78 “Notifiable Conditions.” When a notifiable condition is reported to PHEP, the information is entered into the Texas state database. This information is reported monthly in Public Health Matters. Six cases of wound *Vibrio* infections were reported in July to PHEP. Jan Prejean RN, Disease Surveillance Specialist, is investigating these cases in cooperation with the state and regional health departments.

Vibrio is a species of bacteria commonly found in coastal marine waters and seafood throughout the world.

These bacteria can make people sick in three ways:

- **Wound infection:** If bacteria enter an opening in the skin, they can cause serious skin infection. These infections usually begin with redness and swelling at the wound site. *Vibrio* wound infections occur when a person with a cut or abrasion swims, wades or fishes in seawater containing a high number of these bacteria.
- **Gastrointestinal illness:** The bacteria can cause diarrhea in people who eat raw or undercooked seafood containing the bacteria. When this happens, the person usually becomes only mildly or moderately sick, although some people may become sick enough to be hospitalized. The patient may have symptoms such as diarrhea, abdominal cramps, nausea, vomiting, headache, fever and chills. The illness lasts from 1 to 7 days. Symptoms usually begin within 12 to 24 hours of eating contaminated seafood but onset can range from 4 to 30 hours.
- **Blood infection (septicemia):** This infection occurs when bacteria that enter the body through a wound or gastrointestinal tract invade the blood. Blood infections generally occur only in people with certain underlying health problems. Bloodstream infections can be serious, even fatal, and require immediate treatment. How do people get the skin infection form of this illness?

Because *Vibrio* are found naturally in warm seawater, skin infections typically occur when a person with a cut or abrasion swims or wades in seawater containing these bacteria. Skin infections are a particular concern in the Gulf Coast region after a hurricane when people are exposed to floodwater containing a mixture of fresh and salt water (brackish water).

In the United States, diarrheal illness often is due to eating raw or improperly cooked shellfish or by consuming cooked fish and shellfish contaminated with the bacteria after it was cooked. Outbreaks have occurred when cooked seafood was allowed to touch contaminated raw seafood, surfaces or utensils, or the seafood was kept at temperatures above 40 degrees F. *Vibrio* bacteria grows rapidly in seafood that is not kept clean or properly chilled.

Vibrio bacteria can move from an infected cut or the gastrointestinal tract into the blood, causing a bloodstream infection, or septicemia. People who get these infections almost always have one or more underlying health problems. Healthy people are at much lower risk for *Vibrio* bloodstream infection (septicemia). Adapted from the DSHS Fact Sheet Series Publication #E19-13242 Rev 07/09

Public Health Threats Exist

Many folks don't realize that public health threats exist. But throughout history, naturally occurring and even bioterrorism have threatened the public's health many times.

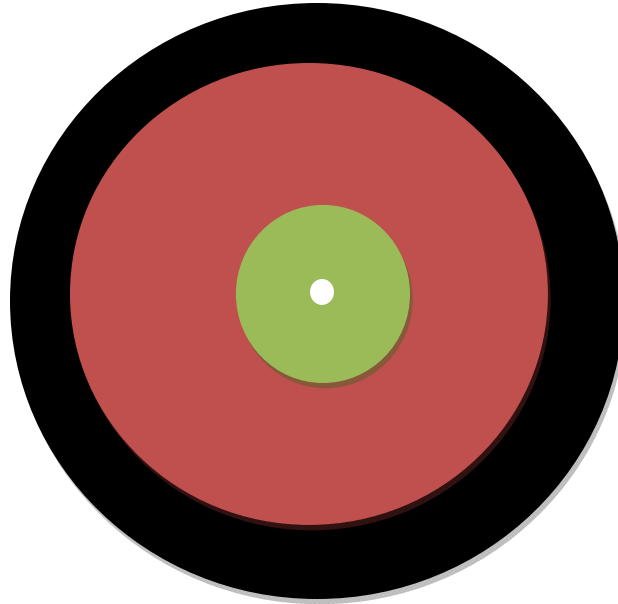
We cannot control the weather or prevent disasters from happening, but planning now can help save lives later. www.PublicHealthMatters.net offers preparedness information and resources for the public and has sections for healthcare professionals and first responders.

Brazoria County Public Health Emergency Preparedness (PHEP) accomplishes its mission through the development of programs and operational capabilities. This plan provides the framework upon which PHEP assists direct response before, during, and after a disaster. By working with Emergency Management and other county departments and municipalities within the County, PHEP helps our community to be better prepared for all hazards—chemical, biological, radiological, nuclear and explosive.

“Public health preparedness is indeed a moving target. We're in an international world now and diseases that once were limited to a certain part of the world can be found in various parts of the world because of international travel.” *Nick Curry, MD, MPH*, Texas Department of State Health Services. The unpredictable nature of disease and how it spreads makes public health emergency preparedness everyone's responsibility.

High-Yield Explosives

The yield of a weapon refers to the amount of energy discharged. This energy is measured in terms of TNT mass. The measurements apply to both conventional and nuclear weapons. One might sometimes see where a nuclear yield is measured in terajoules. A high-yield nuclear explosion emits a fireball. The actual blast effects radiate outward much farther. The graph below shows the different fireball radii for notable nuclear explosives- please note this graph does not include actual blast effects,



Black circle: Tsar Bomba with a yield of 50 megatons TNT and a fireball radius of 0.8 mi

Red circle: Castle Bravo with a yield of 15 megatons TNT and a fireball radius of 0.5 mi

Green circle: W59 and W88 with yields of 1 megaton and 350 kilotons TNT and fireball radii of 0.1 mi

White circle: "Fat Man" Nagasaki with a yield of 18 kilotons TNT and a fireball radius of 0.03 mi

The fireball is not the only destructive part of an explosion. Blast effects are extremely dangerous, no matter the type of explosion. The next installment of this series will focus on ground-level bomb detonations and how those blast effects impact people up to several miles away. Until then, a neat app to check out in your spare time about blast effects is <http://meyerweb.com/eric/tools/gmap/hydesim.html>. You can "detonate" something at a specific address and observe how the blast effects radiate outward.

Chasey Reed-Boston, BS, MA

DISEASES REPORTED TO BRAZORIA COUNTY HEALTH DEPARTMENT BY MONTH FOR 2010													
Reportable Diseases	Jan	Feb	Mar	April	May	June	July	Aug	Sept	Oct	Nov	Dec	Total
Bacterial Meningitis													0
Campylobacteriosis	1	4	2		1	1	1						10
Chlamydia	19	10	7	6	22	5	10						79
Clostridium difficile		1											1
Cryptosporidiosis													0
Dengue													0
Gonorrhea	6	3	1	2	8		2						22
Group A Strep-invasive						1							1
Group B Strep			2	1		1	3						7
Guardiasis													0
Haemophilus Influenza		1	1										2
Hantavirus				1									1
Hepatitis A, acute	2		2	2									6
Hepatitis B, acute	2	2		1	5	2	1						13
Hepatitis C, acute	11	4	1		7		7						30
HIV infection, Adult					1		1						2
Invasive Group A Strep			1										1
Invasive Group B Strep			2										2
Legionellosis													0
Lyme Disease													0
Malaria													0
Meningitis (Viral)	1					3	3						7
Pertussis				2	1	1	1						5
Salmonellosis	4	5	3	2	1	3	4						22
Shigellosis													0
Streptococcus pneumoniae, invasive	5	3	2	3	2	1	1						17
Syphilis	2					3	2						7
Tuberculosis	1	1											2
Varicella -Chicken Pox	11	1	1	2	3		1						19
Vibrio						4	2						6
West Nile Virus													0

“No health department, state or local, can effectively prevent or control disease without knowledge of when, where, and under what conditions cases are occurring.”
—Public Health Reports, 1946

Specified diseases and conditions are mandated by State laws and regulations to be reported to the local health department. Report by email (info@brazoria-county.com), fax (979-864-1501) or phone (979-864-1166).

PHEP TEAM

John Jordan, MD	Health Au- thority
Jo Mapel, RN, BSN, MPH	Team Leader
Jan Prejean, RN	Disease Surveillance
Barbara Perkins, BA, MEd	Facilitator
Stephanie Smith, MPH, RD	SNS Coordinator
Tamara Tisdale	Assets Controller
Chasey Reed-Boston, BS, MA	CBRNE Analyst

CONTACT US

432 E. Mulberry Angleton, Tx 77515
979-864-1166 Fax: 979-864-3694



The BUZZ

A cooperative effort by the Brazoria County Mosquito Control and Brazoria County Public Health Emergency Preparedness



Mosquito Bites and Impetigo

Impetigo (say "im-puh-TY-go") is a bacterial skin infection. It causes red sores that can break open, ooze fluid, and develop a yellow-brown crust. These sores can occur anywhere on the body but most often appear around the mouth and nose.

Impetigo is one of the most common skin infections in children. It can occur in adults but is seen far more often in children. Impetigo is contagious and can be spread to others through close contact or by sharing towels, sheets, clothing, toys, or other items. Scratching can also spread the sores to other parts of the body.

Impetigo is caused by one of two kinds of bacteria-strep (streptococcus) or staph (staphylococcus). Often these bacteria enter the body when the skin has already been irritated or injured because of other skin problems such as eczema, poison ivy, insect bites, for example, mosquitoes, chickenpox, burns, or cuts. Children may get impetigo after they have had a cold or allergies that have made the skin under the nose raw. However, impetigo can also develop in completely healthy skin.

You or your child may have impetigo if you have sores on the skin, especially around the nose or mouth. The sores begin as small red spots then change to blisters that eventually break open. The sores are generally not painful, but they may be itchy. Sores may ooze fluid and look crusty as if they have been coated with honey or brown sugar. Sores may also increase in size and number and may be as small as a pimple or larger than a coin.

Impetigo is treated with antibiotics. For cases of mild impetigo, a doctor will prescribe an antibiotic ointment or cream to put on the sores. For cases of more serious impetigo, a doctor may also prescribe antibiotic pills.

After 3 days of treatment, you or your child should begin to get better. A child can usually return to school or daycare after 48 hours of treatment. If you apply the ointment or take the pills exactly as prescribed, most sores will be completely healed in 1 week.

At home, you should gently wash the sores with soap and water before you apply the medicine. If the sores are crusty, soak them in warm water for 15 minutes, scrub the crusts with a washcloth to remove them, and pat the sores dry. Do not share washcloths, towels, pillows, sheets, or clothes with others and be sure to wash these items in hot water before you use them again.

Try not to scratch the sores because scratching can spread the infection to other parts of the body. You can help prevent scratching by keeping your child's fingernails short and covering sores with gauze or bandages.

Call your doctor if an impetigo infection does not improve after 3 or 4 days or if you notice any signs that the infection is getting worse such as fever, increased pain, swelling, warmth, redness, or pus.

Information taken from WebMD.



Mild case of impetigo on a child's face.



Impetigo sores around the mouth. Sores look crusty and as if they have been coated with honey or brown sugar.



VOLUNTEER AND TRAINING OPPORTUNITIES



Brazoria County has two Citizen Corps groups:

Pearland Area Citizen Corps

<http://www.PearlandCC.org>

281-997-9777

Brazoria County Citizens Corps

<http://homelandpreparedness.org/>

281-844-3653



**For training opportunities,
call or visit their website**

PUT **ICE** IN YOUR CELL PHONE

In Case of Emergency It may save your life!

If you cannot tell first responders who you are, your cell phone can help emergency responders and healthcare workers identify you and notify your loved ones.



- **Open your cell phone and create a new entry. Instead of entering a new contact name, create the word ICE (In Case of Emergency).**
- **Enter the phone number of the person you would want contacted in an emergency if you are unable to speak for yourself. To list multiple contacts, create entries such as ICE1, ICE2, ICE3 and so on.**

Emergency Workers can look for ICE in your cell phone and know those are your emergency contacts.