

Public Health Emergency Preparedness  
 BRAZORIA COUNTY HEALTH DEPARTMENT

**PUBLIC HEALTH MATTERS**

December 2009



**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

**PHEP RECEIVES FIRST DOSES OF 2009 H1N1 VACCINE**



Kathy Howell, RN and Jennifer Gonzales, RN provide vaccinations to students.

PHEP received its first allocation of H1N1 Vaccine in mid-November. School districts are being scheduled for a vaccine program available free to all students. The districts are being scheduled as enough vaccine becomes available to provide immunizations to the entire school district. It is our goal to have completed 5 school districts by the end of 2009. The remaining districts will be scheduled as addi-

**WHAT IS THE DIFFERENCE? — INTRANASAL VACCINE vs THE SHOT**

**INTRANASAL VACCINE**

The intranasal vaccine contains a live but weakened (attenuated) form of the H1N1 virus. Live, attenuated intranasal vaccine (or LAIV) is sprayed into the nose. LAIV does not contain any preservatives.

LAIV can be given to healthy people from 2 through 49 years.

You should not get 2009 H1N1 LAIV if you have a severe (life-threatening) allergy to eggs or to any other substance in the vaccine.

2009 H1N1 LAIV should not be given to the following groups: • children younger than 2 and adults 50 years and older • pregnant women • anyone with a weakened immune system • anyone with a .Cont.. p. 3

**FLU “SHOT”**

Inactivated vaccine (vaccine that has killed virus in it) is injected into the muscle like the annual flu shot. The virus in inactivated 2009 H1N1 vaccine has been killed, so you cannot get influenza from the vaccine.

Inactivated 2009 H1N1 vaccine may be given at the same time as other vaccines, including seasonal influenza vaccine.

You should not get 2009 H1N1 flu vaccine if you have a severe (life-threatening) allergy to eggs, or to any other substance in the vaccine.

The H1N1 vaccines are made just like seasonal flu vaccines. They are expected to be as safe and effective as

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### Brazoria County-Reportable Diseases

Reportable Diseases	Jan	Feb	Mar	April	May	June	July	Aug	Sept	Oct	Nov	Dec	Total
Bacterial Meningitis										2			2
Campylobacteriosis		1	2							2	1		6
Chlamydia	3	8	9	6	7	9	5	7	4	4	6		68
Cryptosporidiosis	1	2											3
Dengue								1					1
Gonorrhea	2		2	4	3	3	2	1	4		6		27
Guardiasis								2					2
Hepatitis A, acute			2			1		1		1			5
Hepatitis B, acute		4	1	1		2	2	3	2	8	1		24
Hepatitis C, acute		15	5	6	2	7	6	9	7	19	7		83
HIV infection, Adult	1				1	2	2						6
Legionellosis													0
Lyme Disease													0
Malaria						1							1
Meningitis (Viral)											1		1
Pertussis				1		1				1	1		4
Salmonellosis	2	1	5	1		6	7	1	1	9	8		41
Shigellosis	1			1		2	2			1	1		8
Streptococcus pneumoniae, invasive	2	2	5			2	3		1				15
Syphilis	2	4	3	2	2		3	1	1	1			19
Tuberculosis									8	1			9
Varicella (Chicken Pox)	7	3	4	4	3	6	5		6	4	4		46
West Nile Virus													0

#### **PHEP TEAM**

Leo D. O’Gorman , MD, MPH	Health Authority
Jo Mapel, RN, BSN, MPH	Team Leader
Jan Prejean, RN	Disease Surveillance
Barbara Perkins	Facilitator
David Stroud	SNS Coordinator
Tamara Tisdale	Office Manager
Chasey Reed-Boston	H1N1 Project Manager
Stephanie Smith	H1N1 Facilitator

#### **CONTACT US**

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



**INTRANASAL VACCINE ..... Continued**

long-term health problem such as - heart disease - kidney or liver disease - lung disease - metabolic disease such as diabetes - asthma - anemia and other blood disorders • children younger than 5 years with asthma or one or more episodes of wheezing during the past year • anyone with certain muscle or nerve disorders (such as cerebral palsy) that can lead to breathing or swallowing problems • anyone in close contact with a person with a severely weakened immune system (requiring care in a protected environment, such as a bone marrow transplant unit) • children or adolescents on long-term aspirin treatment.

Children under the age of 10 years need a second dose of vaccine 21-28 days following the first dose.

Children under the age of 6 months cannot receive the LAIV.

**Flu “Shot” .....Continued**

seasonal flu vaccines. They will not prevent “influenza-like” illnesses caused by other viruses. They will not prevent seasonal flu. *You should also get seasonal influenza vaccine if you want to be protected against seasonal flu.*

Some inactivated 2009 H1N1 vaccine contains a preservative called thimerosal to keep it free from germs. Some people have suggested that thimerosal might be related to autism. In 2004, a group of experts at the Institute of Medicine reviewed many studies looking into this theory and found no association between thimerosal and autism. Additional studies since then reached the same conclusion.

Children under the age of 6 months cannot receive the flu shot.

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**WANT INFORMATION ABOUT H1N1 VACCINE IN BRAZORIA COUNTY?**

CALL YOUR PHYSICIAN

CALL 2-1-1

CALL THE BRAZORIA COUNTY HOTLINE 979-864-1064

[www.BrazoriaCountyFlu.com](http://www.BrazoriaCountyFlu.com) or [www.TexasFlu.org](http://www.TexasFlu.org)



Community leaders took part in a Table Top Drill to simulate the administration of medication to citizens in a public Point of Distribution (POD). The training was hosted by Brazoria County Public Health Emergency Preparedness. Representatives from city government, hospitals, school districts, EMS, law enforcement, emergency management, and public health emergency preparedness and response took part in the game.



*Happy Holidays from the PHEP Team*

## BIOTERRORISM —PREPAREDNESS & RESPONSE —NUCLEAR EMERGENCIES

The threat of a nuclear attack by terrorists could come in a variety of ways. The most feared is the threat of a nuclear weapon or improvised nuclear device similar to the bombs dropped on Japan to end World War II. These both result in the large blast and the mushroom cloud that is typically associated with the idea of an attack. These, however, require extremely skilled scientists to produce, and the materials necessary to make them are very hard to acquire.

Another means of attack would be a dirty bomb or Radiological Dispersal Device. These would be easier to produce than a nuclear weapon as it just serves as a means for spreading radioactive material over as large an area as

possible. This method may not always be delivered by an explosion but by other means.

The threat posed by an attack on a nuclear power plant is small as there are security measures in place to prevent them from occurring and to prevent the release of nuclear material. In the event that some radioactive material was released, the plants have emergency procedures for responding to it.

The threat posed by fallout or nuclear debris from any of these examples would be dependent on many factors such as wind direction and speed as well as the means of dispersal and the material.

**Centers for Disease Control and Prevention has NOT implemented a state vaccination program requiring registration. Please see the notice below and ignore any email you may receive asking you to follow a link to create a personal H1N1 Vaccination Profile.**

The CDC/OCISO Cyber Security Incident Response Team (CSIRT) has received reports of fraudulent emails (phishing) referencing a CDC sponsored State Vaccination Program.

The messages request that users must create a personal H1N1 (swine flu) Vaccination Profile on the cdc.gov website. The message then states that anyone that has reached the age of 18 has to have his/her personal Vaccination Profile on the cdc.gov site.

The CDC has NOT implemented a state vaccination program requiring registration on [www.cdc.gov](http://www.cdc.gov). Users that click on the email are at risk of having malicious code installed on their system. OCISO reminds users to take the following steps to reduce the risk of being a victim of a phishing attack:

- Do not follow unsolicited links and do not open or respond to unsolicited email messages.
- Use caution when visiting un-trusted websites.
- Use caution when entering personal information online.

### An example of the Phishing email follows:

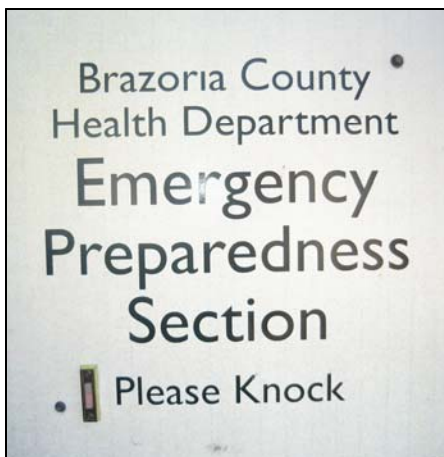
**Subject: State Vaccination Program**

You have received this e-mail because of the launching of State Vaccination H1N1 Program.

You need to create your personal H1N1 (swine flu) Vaccination profile on the cdc.gov website. The Vaccine is not obligatory, but every person that has reached the age of 18 has to have his personal Vaccination Profile on the cdc.gov site. This profile has to be created both for the vaccinated people and the not-vaccinated ones. This profile is used for the registering system of vaccinated and not-vaccinated people.

Create your Personal H1N1 Vaccination Profile using the link:

[Create Personal Profile](#)



**IT'S A BIT CONFUSING!**

**PHEP HAS A NEW DOORBELL, SO WE CAN TELL  
WHEN SOMEONE IS AT THE DOOR.....  
NOW WE MUST CHANGE OUR SIGN!**