

PUBLIC HEALTH MATTERS

Volume 1

January 2009



WELCOME David Stroud NEW SNS Coordinator

Help the Brazoria County Health Department welcome David Stroud, our new Strategic National Stockpile Coordinator.

David who is a native of Angleton, Texas graduated from Angleton High School in 2001. David recently earned an MBA from Texas Tech University. His undergraduate degree is in electronic media and communications. In October, David and his fiancée Hannah will be married and make their new home in Brazoria County. David is a great cook and a good carpenter.

David's first day in his new position was January 5, 2009.

CDC's Strategic National Stockpile (SNS) has large quantities of medicine and



medical supplies to protect the American public if there is a public health emergency (terrorist attack, flu outbreak, earthquake) severe enough to

cause local supplies to run out. Once Federal and local authorities agree that the SNS is needed, medicines will be delivered to any state in the U.S. within 12 hours. Each state has plans to receive and distribute SNS medicine and medical supplies to local communities as quickly as possible.

David will be responsible for coordinating the efforts of the Brazoria County Health Department Public Health Emergency Preparedness Team to receive and distribute SNS supplies.

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Tamara Grayson joins the PHEP Team

Tamara Grayson joined the PHEP team on January 5th after a while as a stay-at-



home mom caring for her three children—Hannah, Parker and Hunter.

Tamara is originally from Brazoria County and graduated from West Columbia High School. She attends Alvin Community College studying business management. Tamara lives with her family on the outskirts of West Columbia and enjoys all the responsibilities of country living. Tamara enjoys work-

ing on crafts and art projects.

Tamara is the Administrative Assistant for the PHEP team and will be actively involved in documenting reportable diseases. There are 59 diseases that are required to be reported in Texas. This information goes from Brazoria County to the State of Texas and on to the Center for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC).

BRAZORIA COUNTY–REPORTABLE DISEASES

Reportable Diseases	Jan	Feb	Mar	April	May	June	July	Aug	Sept	Oct	Nov	Total
Bacterial Meningitis			1									1
Campylobacteriosis		1	1	2	1	1	2					8
Chlymydia	4	1	1	1						4	5	16
Gonorrha				1						1	2	4
Hepatitis A, acute			1					1		2		4
Hepatitis B, acute						1						1
Hepatitis B, chronic	9	10	7	2	8	7	16	11	6	10	9	95
Hepatitis C, acute						1						1
Hepatitis C, chronic	17	18	13	8	31	27	22	23	19	17	8	203
HIV Infection, Adult										1	1	2
Leionellosis								1				1
Lyme Disease								2				2
Mumps	1											1
Pertussis			1					1				2
Niserria Meningitides					1							1
Salmonellosis	3		4	6	5	6	12	4	9	6	4	59
Shigellosis		1	4	7	7	3	1	3	1			27
Streptococcus pneumoniae, invasive	2	1										3
Streptococcal disease, invasive Group A					1	1						2
Streptococcal disease, invasive Group B					1	1	1					3
Syphilis	1											1
Varicella (Chicken Pox)	3	10	27	74	26	5	1	1	1	4	1	153
West Nile Virus									1			1

REPORTING DISEASES IN TEXAS

The State of Texas mandates through Public Health Law and Administrative Codes that specific diseases and conditions should be reported to local or regional public health departments. Clearly, the importance of disease reporting has increased due to the post

September 11, 2001 era where biological terrorism is a possible reality.

The law reads "A physician, dentist, veterinarian or chiropractor shall report each patient or animal he or she shall examine who has or is sus-

pected of having a notifiable condition and shall report any outbreak, exotic disease, or unusual group expression of illness of any kind whether or not the disease is known to be communicable or reportable." Surveillance data, which

trends, respond to disease threats, identify risk factors for disease and recommend and assess disease intervention/prevention strategies.

MRSA

MRSA is methicillin-resistant *Staphylococcus aureus*, a potentially dangerous type of staph bacteria that is resistant to certain antibiotics and may cause skin and other infections.

As with all regular staph infections, recognizing the signs and receiving treatment for MRSA skin infections in the early stages reduces the chances of the infection becoming severe. MRSA is spread by:

- Having direct contact with another person's infection
- Sharing personal items, such as towels or razors, that have touched infected skin

Touching surfaces or items, such as used bandages, contaminated with MRSA. Most staph skin infections, including MRSA, appear as a bump or infected area on the skin that may be:

- Red
- Swollen
- Painful
- Warm to the touch
- Full of pus or other drainage
- Accompanied by a fever

If you suspect an MRSA infection, cover the area with a bandage and contact your healthcare professional. It is especially important to contact your health-

care professional if signs and symptoms of an MRSA skin infection are accompanied by a fever. If you are given an antibiotic, be sure to take all of the doses (even if the infection is getting better), unless your healthcare professional tells you to stop taking it.

- Know the signs of MRSA and get it treated early
- Keep cuts and scrapes clean and covered
- Encourage good hygiene such as cleaning hands regularly
- Discourage sharing of personal items such as towels



If you suspect an MRSA infection, cover the area with a bandage and contact your healthcare professional.

Influenza Reporting in Texas

The Brazoria County Health Department is indebted to our health professionals who voluntarily report cases of Influenza and Flu Like Illnesses every week. Influenza is not a reportable disease in Texas. In order

to “keep tabs” on the influenza case level in Brazoria, we depend on our volunteers.

Reports are divided into the following groups: Flu A, Flu B, Non-differentiated and Flu Like

Illness. At this time there are only 3 confirmed cases of Influenza reported in Brazoria County. We will publish the flu report monthly in Health Matters during flu season.

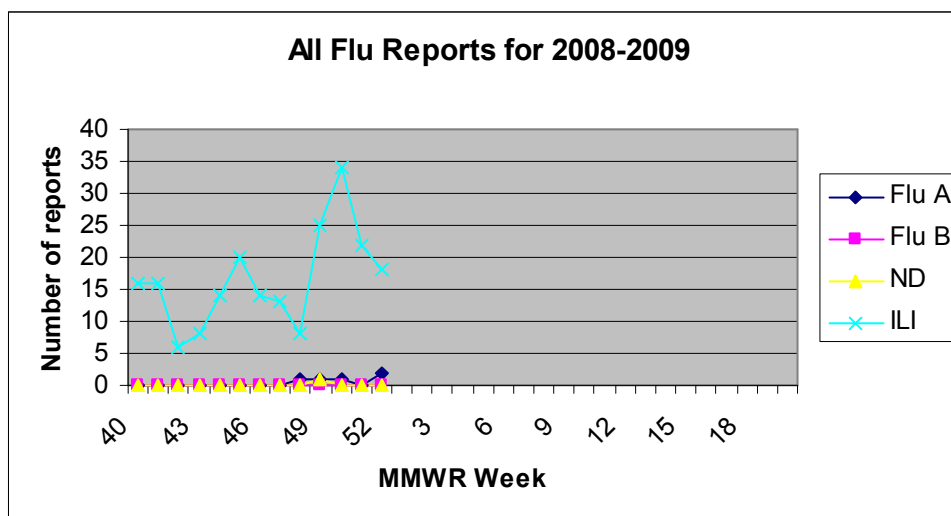
**WOULD YOU
LIKE TO BE A
VOLUNTEER
REPORTER?**

CONTACT

Jan Prejean

979-864-1166

Brazoria County participates in conducting influenza surveillance by reporting the estimated level of influenza activity to the state and CDC every week during flu season (October to May). Influenza activity levels are reported as no activity, sporadic, local, regional, or widespread.



**Brazoria County Health
Department Emergency
Preparedness
Preparedness**

432 East Mulberry
Angleton, Texas 77515

Phone: 979-864-1166
Fax: 979-864-1501
Email: volunteer@brazoria-county.com

PHEPT STAFF

Health Authority—Leo O’Gorman, MD, MPH
Director—Jo Mapel, RN, BSN, MPH
Disease Surveillance—Jan Prejean, RN
SNS Coordinator—David Stroud
Administrative Assistant—Tamara Grayson

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR:

Give us your comments on our Newsletter.

We’re on the web
www.brazoria.county.com



TRAINING OPPORTUNITIES

The beginning of a new year is a time for making plans. The PHEP Team is making plans to encourage volunteer participation and training.

Public PODs will be directed by the local Health Department and manned by volunteers. Help will be needed to

- set up the POD
- unload trucks
- feed the workers
- provide traffic control
- distribute medication
- many other jobs

There is a job for everyone.

Training will be provided.

Your community needs your help to respond to a disaster. As a volunteer, you will receive your medication for you and your family before the POD opens to the public.

**CONTACT US FOR MORE
INFORMATION ON HOW YOU
CAN HELP US BE PREPARED**

979-864-1166

VOLUNTEER@BRAZORIA-COUNTY.COM