

# PUBLIC HEALTH MATTERS

Volume 3

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We're on the web  
www.brazoria-county.com

432 East Mulberry  
Angleton, Texas 77515  
Phone: 979-864-1166  
Fax: 979-864-1501  
Email: volunteer@brazoria-county.com

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## MEET BARBARA PERKINS

Barbara Perkins has joined the PHEP team as our new facilitator. Barbara was a teacher for 5 years then Assistant Principal for 5 years at Angleton High School. Next she was principal at Southside Elementary School for 8 years. She retired in January 2008 after 2 ½ years as an administrator in Fort Bend ISD. Barbara earned a Bachelor of Science in Business and English and a Masters in Education from Sul Ross State University. She also did postgraduate work at the University of Houston.

Barbara is married to Lamar Coleman, an Angleton native. Lamar is the Director of Ca-

reer and Technical Education for Fort Bend ISD. Barbara and Lamar live near Pearland. They have two children, An-



drea Wallace, who is assistant director of nursing for hospice with IPH in Angleton, and Jenny Coleman, who is a Pre-Kindergarten teacher in Austin. They have one granddaughter, Savannah.

Barbara enjoys sewing, decorating cakes and spoiling Savannah.

Barbara's first day on the job was February 19, 2009. She will be responsible for developing and training for the volunteer program to assist in providing mass immunizations or prophylactic medications to support public health emergency preparedness plans. She will consult and communicate with other departments, agencies, and civic groups in furthering interest and action regarding plans or programs for public health emergency preparedness.

## WHO SHOT THE SHERIFF?

Sheriff Charles Wagner received immunizations. The Public Health Emergency Preparedness Team has been working since Ike to immunize and protect all first responders—law enforcement, firemen, EMS, and county Road and Bridge employees. The PHEP has also set up shot clinics in areas affected by Hurricane Ike.

As of March 1st, the PHEP

team with help from BCHD immunization nurses, have provided 1738 immunizations to 1247 people in Brazoria County.



Kathy Thacker, RN, gives immunization at Surfside Beach City Hall following Hurricane Ike.



Sheriff Charles Wagner gets "shot" by Jo Mapel, RN

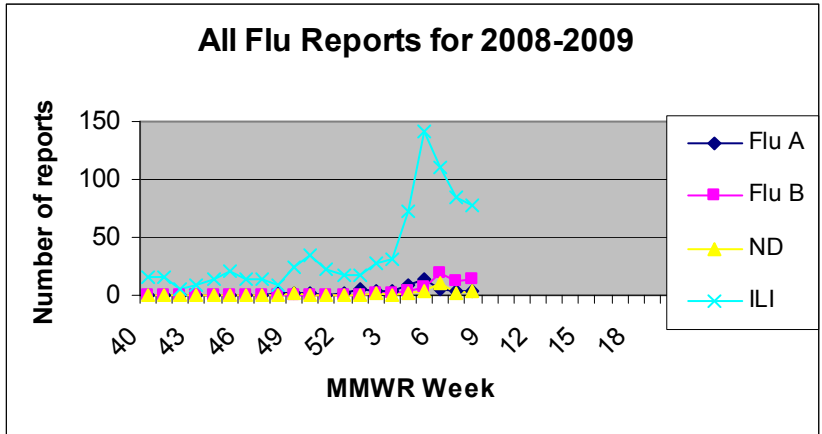
Vaccine was provided by the state of Texas. Cost of these immunizations for Brazoria County would have been \$36,456 to date.

# BRAZORIA COUNTY-REPORTABLE DISEASES

Reportable Diseases	Jan	Feb	Mar	April	May	June	July	Aug	Sept	Oct	Nov	Dec	Total
Bacterial Meningitis													0
Campylobacteriosis		1											1
Chlamydia	3	8											11
Gonorrhea	2	2											4
Haemophilus influenzae	1												
Hepatitis A, acute													0
Hepatitis B, acute		4											4
Hepatitis C, acute		15											15
HIV infection, Adult	1												1
Legionellosis													0
Lyme Disease													0
Mumps													0
Pertussis													0
Nisseria meningitis													0
Salmonellosis	2	1											3
Shigellosis	1												1
Streptococcus pneumoniae, invasive		1											1
Streptococcal disease, invasive Group A		1											1
Streptococcal disease, invasive Group B													0
Syphilis	2	4											6
Varicella (Chicken Pox)	7	3											10
West Nile Virus													0

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.

**WOULD YOU LIKE TO  
BE A VOLUNTEER  
INFLUENZA  
REPORTER?  
CONTACT  
Jan Prejean, RN  
979-864-1166**



Brazoria County Health Department  
Emergency Preparedness (PHEP) Team

TEAM MEMBERS  
Health Authority-**Leo O’Gorman, MD, MPH**  
Director-**Jo Mapel, RN, BSN, MPH**  
Disease Surveillance-**Jan Prejean, RN**  
SNS Coordinator-**David Stroud, MBA**  
Facilitator-**Barbara Perkins, BS, MEd**  
Administrative Assistant-**Tamara Grayson**

## JOINING FORCES

Commissioner Payne, liaison to the Health Department from Commissioners Court, Doc Adams, Casey Alexander and Steve Rosa (Brazoria County Emergency Management), Dr. Leo O’Gorman, Brazoria County Health Authority and the PHEP team met recently.

The group spent time looking over equipment that is ready to be utilized in the event of a public health emergency. They shared ideas, discussed mutual goals and operational strategies.



Lunch was provided by PHEP



David Stroud, SNS Coordinator, Steve Rosa, Brazoria County Assistant Emergency Manager and Dr. Leo O’Gorman, Brazoria County Health Director look over mobile communication equipment.



Doc Adams, Dude Payne, and Dr. Leo O’Gorman discuss the use of equipment during an emergency



↑ Satellite Communications Dish  
Watching the operation is Casey Alexander, Doc Adams, Dude Payne, Steve Rosa and Jo Mapel



## WHAT IS BIOTERRORISM ?

A bioterrorism attack is the deliberate release of viruses, bacteria, or other germs (agents) used to cause illness or death in people, animals, or plants. These agents are typically found in nature, but

it is possible that they could be changed to increase their ability to cause disease. Biological agents can be spread through the air, water or in food. Terrorists may use biological agents because they can be extremely difficult to

detect and do not cause illness for several hours to several days. Some biological agents, like the smallpox virus can be spread from person to person and some, like anthrax, can not.

## ISOLATION AND QUARANTINE

To protect the public in the case of an outbreak of a highly contagious infectious disease, such as smallpox or plague, public health officials may decide to use isolation and quarantine strategies.

*Isolation* removes people who are ill with contagious diseases from the general public and restricts their activities to stop the spread of a disease. Isolation is only used for patients with contagious diseases.

Quarantine separates people who

May have been exposed to a contagious disease and may be infected but are not yet ill. This helps to stop the spread of that disease.

These practices can reduce the public’s exposure to an illness by separating and restricting the movements of persons known to be infected or who are suspected of being infected. People may choose to do this on their own, but, ultimately, government officials have the authority to call for quarantine and isolation, if necessary, to protect the public welfare.

Emergency plans commonly include isolation and quarantine plans. However, these measures have not been put into widespread use in recent years in the United States. Other countries have successfully used quarantine measures recently to control SARS.



## **Volunteers are CRITICAL to Rapid Health Emergency Response**

U.S. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) will deliver needed supplies to the site of a medical emergency...

It's up to **us** to see that supplies quickly reach all those who need help.

The U.S. Centers for Disease Control & Prevention (CDC) maintains the Strategic National Stockpile – a large cache of medicines and related supplies and equipment, pre-packaged for rapid delivery.

To make sure these supplies reach people quickly, the Public Health Emergency Preparedness Team of the Brazoria County Health Department needs volunteer assistance from health and medical professionals, people with special skills and abilities, and all interested, concerned citizens –

People who will work alongside public health staff and others as volunteers.

### **Mass Medication Dispensing —Greatest Volunteer Need—**

There is a critical need for large numbers of volunteers who could help the Public Health Emergency Preparedness Team meet staffing needs for any number of mass medication dispensing sites in an affected area.

We need people who can assist with:  
Medical Services \*\* Non-medical Services  
Site Support Services \*\* Other Specialized Services  
Stress Management

**In a public health emergency, we may need HUNDREDS of volunteers in order to reach people quickly – to help save lives and reduce suffering.**

**The Public Health Emergency Preparedness Team provides orientation, training, skills exercises and other resources to support your vital service.**

**Take An Active Role!  
Volunteer as a Public Health Volunteer or indicate your interest in learning more:  
Email us at [volunteer@brazoria-county.com](mailto:volunteer@brazoria-county.com)**

## **VOLUNTEER SHINDIG**

### **HOT DOGS AND ICE CREAM**

FOR VOLUNTEERS AND ANYONE INTERESTED IN BECOMING A PHEP VOLUNTEER  
THURSDAY, APRIL 23, 2009  
5:30 PM TO 7 PM

MORE DETAILS IN THE APRIL NEWSLETTER

## **Volunteer Spotlight Doc Osborne**

Earl "Doc" Osborne is the Athletic Trainer at Angleton High School. Doc is a PHEP Volunteer.



"After Ike, I encountered many people helping each other. People were cleaning up their neighbor's houses and property. I felt Angleton was well prepared for what happened. I thought the city and county did a great job in restoring order and giving information out to their citizens.

"I had taken online training from FEMA, ICS100 (Introduction to the Incident Command System) and MRC (Medical Reserve Corps). I felt the training helped me organize myself and my property first. This allowed me to spend time helping with the evacuation of people in an orderly manner on buses and knowing who was in charge of each area. I then worked in the courthouse on the phone bank giving information out to people who called to find out the conditions in their local community. I also helped with some minor medical and first aid in the courthouse.

"I felt that the volunteers played an important part in helping with the evacuation of people and their pets. The volunteers who worked at the courthouse gave up many hours in order to help the people of Brazoria County. The people worked many hours and without sleep the night Hurricane Ike hit. The people in charge of the Brazoria County Courthouse did an excellent job in preparing for the storm. We never lost electricity or power. We stayed running all through hurricane Ike. The people whom I observed stayed calm, which showed they were trained properly. I felt the Emergency Communications Center did an excellent job in giving out information in a timely matter. The ham radio volunteers work very hard and did a great service to us in getting information."