

# Texas' New Pandemic Plan for Respiratory Viruses

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# Presentation Objective

- \* List at least two circumstances that should trigger use of the new pandemic respiratory virus plan

# Outline

- \* Pandemic plan creation and overview
- \* Epi and Surveillance responsibilities for LHDs and HSRs for each operational level
- \* How and when to use the plan
  - \* Example: Influenza in animals

# The New Pandemic Plan

- \* Title: “Respiratory Viruses Having Pandemic Potential: Public Health Preparedness, Surveillance, and Response Plan for Texas”
- \* Covers novel influenza and other respiratory viruses with pandemic potential (e.g., MERS)
- \* Intended audience: Local health departments (LHDs), DSHS programs, executive leadership
- \* Temporary web link:  
<http://www.dshs.state.tx.us/idcu/disease/influenza/links/>

# Workgroup

- \* Workgroup: 2013-2015
- \* Led by State Epidemiologist
- \* Membership:
  - \* Infectious Disease
  - \* Zoonosis Control
  - \* Immunizations
  - \* Pharmacy
  - \* Laboratory
  - \* Community Preparedness
  - \* Communications/Press Office
  - \* DSHS HSR 4/5N
  - \* DSHS HSR 7

# Vetting and Update Process

- \* Development/vetting:
  - \* Workgroup meetings: 2013-2015
  - \* Final workgroup meeting, including DSHS leadership
  - \* Distributed to all LHDs and HSR RD/RMDs in June 2014
    - \* All HSRs and 11 LHDs provided feedback
- \* Revision/review schedule: Unknown; trying to align with TDEM

# Plan Objectives

- \* To describe appropriate activities for surveillance and control of respiratory viruses with pandemic potential, including influenza;
- \* To prompt surveillance and control activities appropriate for estimated virus transmission risk and severity levels;
- \* To prompt activation of a Regional Health and Medical Operations Center (RHMOOC), the State Medical Operations Center (SMOC), and/or a local Emergency Operations Center (EOC);
- \* To provide local and state public health agencies with a decision support system; and
- \* To define the roles and responsibilities of local and state public health entities tasked with pandemic influenza and other respiratory virus surveillance and response activities.

# Contents and Organization

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# Scope of the Plan

- \* “The plan identifies **five phases** of an outbreak or pandemic and the **existing conditions** that define each phase. It separately describes the **expected activities for both DSHS and LHDs**, including activities for areas where DSHS Health Service Region (HSR) offices conduct LHD functions, for each of the five phases.”

# Five Operational Levels

- \* Routine Operations
- \* Enhanced Operations
- \* Increased Readiness Operations
- \* Escalated Operations
- \* Emergency Response Operations

# Components that determine the operational level:

- \* Burden of human illness
- \* Geographic distribution of cases
- \* Travel-related status of human cases
- \* Presence of sustained human-to-human transmission
- \* Complexity of investigations
- \* Level of public or media attention
- \* Presence of animal cases

# Routine Operations

- \* Surveillance, education, and prevention during a normal respiratory virus season
- \* Handled at the programmatic level
- \* Conditions:

<b>Novel human cases in TX?</b>	<b>Complex respiratory investigations?</b>	<b>Public or media attention</b>	<b>Jurisdictions reporting emergency response operations?</b>	<b>Animals with respiratory viruses of concern?</b>
No	No	None to moderate	None	No

- \* Surveillance and Epidemiology responsibilities
  - \* Conduct ILI and flu surveillance
  - \* Submit surveillance specimens and monitor lab reports
  - \* Report, investigate outbreaks and novel cases
  - \* Provide support to LHDs (HSR)

# Enhanced Operations

- \* Surveillance, education, and prevention; response to single imported cases of novel influenza or ORVHPP
- \* Who handles: Programmatic level or virtual activation of the operations center
- \* Conditions:

Novel human cases in local jurisdiction or adjacent?	Sustained human-to-human transmission?	Complex respiratory investigations?	Public or media attention	Jurisdictions with emergency response operations?	Animals with respiratory viruses of concern?
Sporadic, travel-related	No	No	None to moderate	0-1	Yes, but no transmission to humans

- \* Surveillance and Epidemiology responsibilities (in addition to previous level):
  - \* Conduct contact investigations if requested
  - \* Enhance surveillance for ILI following identification of novel flu/RVHPP
  - \* Request DSHS' assistance as needed
  - \* Provide updates to providers
  - \* Distribute DSHS guidance (HSR)
  - \* Assist LHDs as requested (HSR)

# Increased Readiness Operations

- \* Complex investigations into isolated novel flu or other respiratory virus cases
- \* Handled through virtual or limited activation of the operations center
- \* Conditions:

Novel human cases in local jurisdiction or adjacent?	Sustained human-to-human transmission?	Complex respiratory investigations?	Public or media attention	Jurisdictions with emergency response operations?	Animals with respiratory viruses of concern?
Sporadic, non-travel-related	Not in US	Yes	Increased	Multiple jurisdictions within the same or adjacent HSRs	Yes, w/sporadic transmission to humans

- \* Surveillance and Epidemiology responsibilities (in addition to previous levels):
  - \* Enter novel cases in NBS
  - \* Analyze and report data at least weekly
  - \* Enhance surveillance for ILI and flu for at least 4 weeks or 2 incubation periods, whichever is longer, following identification of the last case of novel flu or ORVHPP
  - \* Actively follow up with routine reporters for ILI and specimen submissions
  - \* Initiate laboratory surveillance of a targeted population as directed by EAIDB

# Escalated Operations

- \* Complex investigations into multiple novel flu or ORVHPP cases
- \* Limited to full activation of operations center
- \* Conditions:

Novel human cases in local jurisdiction or adjacent?	Sustained human-to-human transmission?	Complex respiratory investigations?	Public or media attention	Jurisdictions with emergency response operations?	Animals with respiratory viruses of concern?
Multiple, non-travel-related	Not in US	Yes	High	Multiple jurisdictions within multiple HSRs	Yes, with transmission to humans

- \* Surveillance and Epidemiology responsibilities (in addition to previous levels):
  - \* Request additional resources as needed
  - \* Conduct case and contact investigations

# Emergency Response Operations

- \* Additional activities to control a pandemic or widespread epidemic of novel flu or ORVHPP
- \* Full activation of the operations center
- \* Conditions:

Novel human cases in local jurisdiction or adjacent?	Sustained human-to-human transmission?	Complex respiratory investigations?	Public or media attention	Jurisdictions with emergency response operations?	Animals with respiratory viruses of concern?
Multiple, non-travel-related, widespread	Yes, in the US	Yes	Exceptional	Multiple jurisdictions within multiple HSRs	Yes, with transmission to humans

- \* **Epidemiology and Surveillance:**
  - \* Collect aggregate surveillance data on hospitalizations and deaths
  - \* Modify surveillance, investigation, and reporting activities as requested by DSHS Austin

# How and when to use the plan

- \* Review the plan
  - \* Temporary web location:  
<http://www.dshs.state.tx.us/idcu/disease/influenza/links/>
- \* Send feedback to [preparednessplanning@dshs.texas.gov](mailto:preparednessplanning@dshs.texas.gov)
- \* Try to use the plan when novel or unusual situations arise
  - \* Human cases of novel flu or MERS in Texas or US
  - \* Influenza in avian, swine populations in Texas

# Recent Example for Using the Plan: Influenza in Animals

- \* Email:

- \* “A veterinarian called a TAHC veterinarian on Tuesday 2/24/15 to report that a show barn in County X had sick show pigs (one death) showing respiratory signs. There were also reports of dead birds.
- \* The TAHC veterinarian made a site visit that day, collected and submitted specimens to the Texas Veterinary Medical Diagnostic Lab. Specimens were then routed to NVSL. The pigs were positive for the H3N2 strain of swine flu. The lab was not able to classify it down to the variant level. The bird was negative for flu.
- \* The pigs had shown in the gilt show in City A about 10 days prior. There were no reports of illness in people and so far no further illness or mortality in the pigs.”
- \* **Question: Do we need to enhance human surveillance in the local area in response to this incident?**

# Recent Example for Using the Plan: Influenza in Animals

- \* Enhanced Operations:
  - \* Conditions in the state:
    - \* Sporadic, travel-related human cases ....No
    - \* No secondary transmission... N/A
    - \* Non-complex investigations for human cases... Yes
    - \* No to moderate public or media attention... Yes
    - \* No sustained human-to-human transmission... Yes
    - \* 0-1 jurisdictions reporting emergency response operations... Yes
    - \* Reports from TAHC of animal case reports of respiratory viruses having pandemic potential with no known transmission to humans... Yes?

# Recent Example for Using the Plan: Influenza in Animals

## \* **Response Activities – Enhanced Operations**

### \* EMERGING AND ACUTE INFECTIOUS DISEASE BRANCH (EAIDB)

- \* Review case definitions, investigation forms, plans, and procedures
- \* Request targeted increases in specimen submissions, in collaboration with the DSHS Lab
  - \* Local/Region: Enhance surveillance for influenza-like illness (ILI) for at least four (4) weeks or two (2) incubation periods, whichever is longer, following identification of novel influenza or other respiratory virus by actively following up with routine reporters to ensure timely reports
- \* Provide updates to HSRs, LHDs, providers, and others, as appropriate
- \* Assist jurisdictions with case investigations, data entry, and other surge capacity, as requested
- \* Assign pre-identified and trained liaison to serve in the SMOC

### \* *Continue to:*

- \* Coordinate influenza and other respiratory virus surveillance and investigations
- \* Monitor and maintain NEDSS
- \* Monitor all data sources for influenza or other respiratory virus activity
- \* Maintain and post influenza weekly report on website
- \* Provide consultations and guidance to HSR and LHD staff
- \* Maintain regular communication with CDC

# Recent Example for Using the Plan: Influenza in Animals

## \* EAIDB Response:

- \* Reviewed pandemic plan and internal novel flu documents, flowcharts
- \* Communicated with the Region about enhancing human ILI surveillance and patient testing (decision: specimen submission is optional)
  - \* LHD and HSR were already watching for increases in ILI
- \* Contacted CDC about further testing of swine flu positives
- \* Verified that Texas PHLs could test for variant/novel swine flu and reminded PHLs to forward any unsubtypeable specimens
- \* Sent email to ERTs and Flu Coordinators with swine flu/ag fair messaging and reminders
- \* Provided CDC web links to Zoonosis for printable swine flu flyers/signage/posters