



DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES
2377 N. Stemmons Freeway
Dallas, Texas 75207

September 28 2005

Julie L. Gerberding, MD MPH
Office of the Director, CDC
Mailstop D-14
1600 Clifton Road, NE
Atlanta, GA 30333

Dear Dr. Gerberding:

As a result of Hurricane Katrina, Dallas County received over 20,000 evacuees from Louisiana. As the Dallas County Health Authority, I was involved in both the provision of health care to the evacuees, many of whom had gone through the hurricane and the flood and the terrible events that followed and whom were in urgent need of medical care, and attending to the public health needs in the shelters, which were considerable.

The relatively small size of my health department and the magnitude and duration of the emergency placed a tremendous burden on my limited staff. As a consequence, the CDC staff sent to Dallas County to support our public health efforts were invaluable, providing trained public health professionals who could immediately be put to work and who could supply expertise that a local health department our size does not possess.

I have already sent a letter of commendation for the entire team. However, from among all those individuals who came here to help and who deserve our thanks, I would like to single out for special mention Ben Skiaver, Chad Martin and Craig Wilkins. From the day they arrived, their professionalism was evident. Thank you for sending such quality individuals to help us during this unprecedented event.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "David Buhner MD MS". The signature is written in a cursive style.

David Buhner MD MS
Medical Director/Health Authority
Dallas County Health and Human Services

DB:gp