

## First Influenza Case of the Season Identified

*The Texas Department of Health Laboratory isolated influenza B/Hong Kong/1330-2001-like from a specimen submitted by the City of Laredo Health Department. The specimen was collected from a 12-year-old on November 4, 2002. During the period of September 29, 2002, through November 9, 2002, the World Health Organization and the National Respiratory and Enteric Virus Surveillance System tested 6,493 US specimens for influenza viruses; 11 (0.2%) were positive. Of the 11 isolates identified, 7 were influenza A isolates and 4 were influenza B. Influenza A isolates have been identified in Florida, Louisiana, New York, North Carolina, and South Carolina. Influenza B isolates have been identified in New York, South Carolina, and Texas.*

**F**or over a decade the Texas Department of Health has had an active influenza surveillance system in place to obtain cultures from sites throughout Texas. The purpose of this surveillance system is two-fold: to screen for misdiagnosis of influenza and to obtain information early in the season as to what strains are circulating. This information is important to ascertain whether or not the current season's vaccine will most likely protect against the culture-confirmed influenza strains identified in this state.

Each surveillance site is provided with culture media and guidelines for utilization. These sites set up the active surveillance protocols for their jurisdiction. Physicians and public health clinics are encouraged to report all suspected influenza cases, obtain the culture media and guidelines from the main surveillance site, and submit cultures to the Texas Department of Health Bureau of Laboratories. Some cultures processed at TDH are then sent on to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention for further typing. (Table 1 contains contact information for primary influenza surveillance sites in Texas.)

### New Influenza Virus Strain Identified

On February 6, 2002, the World Health Organization (WHO) and the Public Health Laboratory Service (PHLS) in the United Kingdom reported the recent identification of a new influenza virus strain, influenza A(H1N2), isolated from humans in England, Israel, and Egypt. In addition to the viruses reported by PHLS, the CDC has identified influenza A(H1N2) virus from patient specimens

collected during the 2001-2002 and 2002-2003 seasons. Influenza A(H1N2) viruses have been identified in the past. From December 1988 through March 1989, 19 influenza A(H1N2) viruses were identified in 6 cities in China, but the virus did not spread farther.

Since 1977 two influenza A virus subtypes, A(H1N1) and A(H3N2), have circulated widely among humans. The new H1N2 strain appears to have resulted from the reassortment of the genes of the currently circulating influenza A(H1N1) and A(H3N2) subtypes. The hemagglutinin protein of the A(H1N2) virus is similar to that of the currently circulating A(H1N1) viruses, and the neuraminidase protein is similar to that of the current A(H3N2) viruses.

Because the current influenza vaccine contains strains with both H1 and N2 proteins similar to those in the new strain, **the current vaccine should provide good protection against the new A(H1N2) virus.**

No unusual levels of disease have been associated with this virus and, at this time, it is uncertain if the A(H1N2) virus will persist and circulate widely. International influenza surveillance conducted through WHO and US surveillance conducted by CDC will continue to track the occurrence of A(H1N2) viruses.

*Continued* ☞

---

*Also in this issue*

Sad Goodbyes

Bimonthly Statistical Summary

Vaccine Preventable Disease Update

**Table 1. Primary Active Influenza Surveillance Sites in Texas**

City of Amarillo Department of Public Health Drue Koehler 806/351-7228	Capital Pediatrics (Austin) Jolene Frank 512/454-4545 x220
Lubbock City Health Department Kevin McClaren 806/775-2946	Galveston County Health Department Chuck Chambers 409/765-2514
Wichita Falls/Wichita County Health District Lori Morrow 940/761-7800	Corpus Christi/Nueces County Health District Sandra Heagherley 361/851-7214
Tarrant County Health Department Bobby Jones 817/871-7361	San Antonio Metropolitan Health District Jerry Werling 210/207-2085
Dallas County Health District Anita Friedman 214/819-2007	City of Laredo Health Department Ricardo Martinez 956/795-4934
TDH Public Health Region 4/5 North Debbie Evans 903/533-3585	El Paso City/County Health District Pilar Provencio 915/543-3504
University of Texas Health Services Angelique Brunt 512/475-8247	

*For further information contact Peggy Wright or Neil Pascoe by phone at 512/458-7676 or e-mail: [peggy.wright@tdh.state.tx.us](mailto:peggy.wright@tdh.state.tx.us), [neil.pascoe@tdh.state.tx.us](mailto:neil.pascoe@tdh.state.tx.us)*



## Sad Goodbyes

As of January 2003, *Disease Prevention News (DPN)* will no longer offer printed/mailed copies to its readers. By then it also will have said a sad goodbye to three TDH staff who have contributed immeasurably to creating what has been described as a “premier publication (that) has been a ‘best practice’ nationwide.” Penny Finuf, the managing editor from June 1982 through April 1992 retired at the end of November; Mark Gregg, the Director of the Public Health Professional Education (PHPE) Program since August 1993, will retire the end of this month. Kate Hendricks, the medical editor since July 1989, will leave TDH in January to work in the private sector.

During Ms. Finuf’s tenure, *DPN*’s forerunner was known as “PDNews,” short for *Texas Preventable Disease News*. This name was chosen to reflect the publication’s changing emphasis on prevention of all diseases rather than just statistics on infectious diseases.

Dr. Hendricks—nationally recognized for her expertise in tropical medicine, emerging diseases, bioterrorism, and medical technical

writing—always put *Disease Prevention News* as a top priority. Among her many contributions was the increased involvement of highly respected health professionals, from within and outside TDH, in contributing articles and reviewing content.

For over 9 years *DPN* has been a part of PHPE under the direction of Mark Gregg. During this time, his administrative support included obtaining funds for the newsletter’s publication on several occasions when TDH budget shortfalls threatened its very existence. Thanks to Mr. Gregg’s Web site expertise, *DPN* became available on the Internet in 1995, making *DPN* the first state epidemiology newsletter nationwide to go online. Not only was *DPN* a first, a year later it was named as one of the best. In August 1996, *Texas Monthly Magazine* named *Disease Prevention News* in its list of “The 100 Best Web Sites in Texas.”

The *DPN* staff extends its gratitude to these individuals for their valuable contributions to our award-winning newsletter and wishes them success in their future pursuits.

Bimonthly Statistical Summary of Selected Reportable Diseases: Provisional Cumulative Data

Selected Diseases/Conditions	HHSC Region											Selected Texas Counties								Cumulative[1]	
	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	Bexar	Dallas	El Paso	Harris	Hidalgo	Nueces	Tarrant	Travis	2001	2002
Sexually Transmitted Diseases[2]																					
Syphilis,																					
primary and secondary	25	2	253	6	4	98	39	45	1	11	10	42	160	10	86	5	2	85	17	389	494
Congenital Syphilis	1	0	12	0	0	31	4	1	0	1	8	1	7	1	30	6	0	3	4	58	58
Resistant <i>N. gonorrhoeae</i>	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	2
Enteric Diseases																					
Salmonellosis	**	**	**	**	**	**	**	**	**	**	**	**	**	**	**	**	**	**	**	**	**
Shigellosis	**	**	**	**	**	**	**	**	**	**	**	**	**	**	**	**	**	**	**	**	**
Hepatitis A	**	**	**	**	**	**	**	**	**	**	**	**	**	**	**	**	**	**	**	**	**
Campylobacteriosis	**	**	**	**	**	**	**	**	**	**	**	**	**	**	**	**	**	**	**	**	**
Bacterial Infections																					
<i>H. influenzae</i> type b, invasive	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	2	2
Meningococcal, invasive	**	**	**	**	**	**	**	**	**	**	**	**	**	**	**	**	**	**	**	**	**
Lyme disease	**	**	**	**	**	**	**	**	**	**	**	**	**	**	**	**	**	**	**	**	**
Vibrio species	**	**	**	**	**	**	**	**	**	**	**	**	**	**	**	**	**	**	**	**	**
Other Conditions																					
AIDS[4]	46	12	731	69	67	670	214	181	21	62	136	147	522	60	588	36	24	124	141	2404	2311
Hepatitis B	11	9	67	17	7	66	32	22	6	5	16	8	24	5	58	0	5	24	22	630	259
Adult elevated blood lead levels	1	19	337	11	44	48	23	0	2	1	12	0	11	1	42	0	2	15	2	670	498
Animal rabies - total	27	62	269	57	36	95	244	37	66	4	19	9	13	4	22	2	3	27	24	905	916
Dogs and cats	2	5	8	0	0	0	11	1	6	1	0	1	0	1	0	0	0	2	0	26	34
Tuberculosis Disease (2) (4)																					
Children (0-14 years)	4	1	16	5	0	19	5	6	0	1	14	3	9	1	17	6	1	5	2	89	73
Adults (> 14 years)	12	19	302	36	27	362	95	77	9	40	154	52	198	39	312	53	13	81	54	1190	1146
Injuries[2]																					
Spinal Cord Injuries (5)	**	**	**	**	**	**	**	**	**	**	**	**	**	**	**	**	**	**	**	**	**

1. Cumulative to this month. 2. Data for the STD's, Tuberculosis, and spinal cord injuries are provided by date of report, rather than date of onset. 3. Voluntary reporting. 4. AIDS + TB totals include reported cases from Texas Department of Corrections, which are not included in the regional and county totals. 5. 6 reports were missing PHR identification.

\* Data incomplete \*\*Current data unavailable

Texas Population Projections for 2002

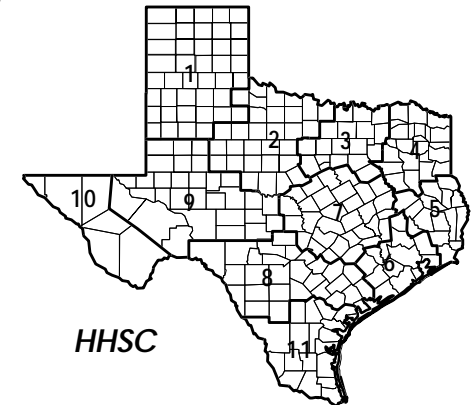
HHSC Regions

1	793,029	4	1,028,253	7	2,393,995	10	727,771
2	553,050	5	749,225	8	2,199,378	11	1,815,197
3	5,691,154	6	5,018,133	9	531,812		

Statewide Total: 19,995,428

Selected Counties

Bexar	1,425,742	Hidalgo	602,609
Dallas	2,287,002	Nueces	321,242
El Paso	702,566	Tarrant	1,488,700
Harris	3,508,888	Travis	843,674



Call 1-800-705-8868 to report



*Disease Prevention News (DPN)*  
 Texas Department of Health  
 1100 West 49th Street  
 Austin, TX 78756-3199  
 Phone: (512) 458-7677  
 Fax: (512) 458-7340  
 Email: [dpn@tdh.state.tx.us](mailto:dpn@tdh.state.tx.us)

The electronic version of *Disease Prevention News*, the subscription form, and a searchable index of issues from 1995 are available at the following website:  
[www.tdh.state.tx.us/phpep/](http://www.tdh.state.tx.us/phpep/)

Mario R. Andalzua, MD, Chair, Texas Board of Health  
 Eduardo J. Sanchez, MD, MPH, Commissioner of Health  
 Charles E. Bell, MD, Executive Deputy Commissioner  
 Dennis M. Perrotta, PhD, CIC, State Epidemiologist  
 Mary Soto, Director, Office of Public Health Practice  
 Mark V. Gregg, MA, Director, Public Health Professional Education

**DPN Staff**

Kate Hendricks, MD, MPH&TM, Medical Editor  
 Susan Hammack, MEd, Managing Editor  
 Linda Darlington, Production Assistant

**DPN Editorial Board**

Suzanne S. Barth, PhD  
 Peter Langlois, PhD  
 Susan U. Neill, MBA, PhD  
 Sharilyn K. Stanley, MD  
 Lucina Suarez, PhD

TDH Publication #E59-10940

**Vaccine-Preventable Disease Update  
 Reported Cases with Onset From Sept 1 thru Oct 31, 2002**

<b>Condition</b>	<b>County</b>	<b>Number of Cases</b>	<b>Date of Onset</b>	<b>Condition</b>	<b>County</b>	<b>Date of Cases</b>	<b>Date of Onset</b>
<b>Mumps</b>	Dallas	1	10/15	<b>Pertussis</b>	Comal	1	10/14
<b>Pertussis</b>	Bexar	2	9/1		Dallas	1	9/10
		2	9/4		Denton	1	9/9
		1	9/19			1	9/29
	Brown	1	9/1			1	10/9
	Cherokee	1	9/4		Harris	1	9/13
	Comal	1	9/14		Hidalgo	1	9/28
		1	9/12		Midland	1	9/4
		1	9/18		Rusk	1	9/5
		1	10/8		Travis	1	9/18
<b>YTD</b>	<b>Measles</b>	<b>Mumps</b>	<b>Pertussis</b>	<b>Rubella</b>	<b>Tetanus</b>		
	1	10	886	1	1		