



COUNTY OF HIDALGO, EMERGENCY OPERATIONS CENTER (EOC)

SUBJECT: AH1N1 Flu (Swine Influenza)

SITUATION REPORT #5a

DATE AND TIME COVERED: Tuesday, May 05, 2009, 10:00 – 17:00

1. **CURRENT SITUATION:** Due to the health emergency that exists in the State of Texas, the Rio Grande Valley and counties directly adjacent to Hidalgo County the Emergency Operations Center has been activated to assist Health Authorities coordinate activities.

As of May 5, 2009, Hidalgo County Health & Human Services has received notification from the Texas Department of State Health Services (DSHS) that **in the County of Hidalgo, there is one (1) confirmed case, three (3) probable case and 262 suspect cases.** Suspect is defined as exhibiting ALL of the following symptoms: Fever above 102.5 degrees, body ache, diarrhea, vomiting, respiratory complications, sore throat and coughing.

	Suspected	Probable	Confirmed	Hospitalized	Deaths
05/01/09	74	1	0	0	0
05/02/09	111	1	0	0	0
05/03/09 08:30	147	1	0	0	0
05/03/09 13:30	197	2	0	0	0
05/04/09	225	1	1	0	0
05/05/09 10:00	243	1	1	0	0
05/05/09 16:00	262	3	1	0	0

Orders have not been issued by the Center for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) or DSHS for the use of masks for the general public. The only masking recommendations are as follows: For emergency responders, law enforcement, hospital emergency room staff, only, while in the presence of suspected infection. If a patient or client exhibits flu-like symptoms, mask the patient/client in question. This is a droplet borne disease, not airborne. Follow Tuberculosis (TB) protocols and use droplet precautions. School districts may decide on their own if masks should be used in their schools, but it has not been ordered or recommended by the CDC or DSHS.

Hidalgo County is working with the State, which has authorized the deployment of testing supplies to Hidalgo County for distribution throughout the County. The supplies have not been received by Hidalgo County Health & Human Services as of yet.

Hidalgo County has received antivirals - Relenza & Tamuflu for distribution to Federally Qualified Health Clinics. There is no shortage of meds at this time.

Hidalgo County has activated the Hidalgo County Flu Information Hotline, open from 8-5pm, daily. The number is 1-866-613-5277.

The Hidalgo County Prescription Drug Discount Card does provide a discount for Tamiflu & Relenza, with a valid doctor's prescription, at a local participating pharmacy. For more information or for a card, contact Hidalgo County Judge's Office, 956-318-2600 or visit the Hidalgo County website: www.hidalgo.co.tx.us.

Mexican Consulate: As of May 5, 2009, 10:00, there are zero (0) confirmed cases along the Mexican side of the Texas/Mexico border along the Rio Grande Valley.

School Closures: School closures in Hidalgo County include all campuses in the Weslaco ISD, until May 14th. Donna ISD has decided to close all campuses as well until further notice. Mercedes ISD has closed all schools until further notice. No other public schools have been closed in Hidalgo County. Our Lady of Sorrows Catholic School in McAllen will be closed until Wednesday, May 6th.

School	Status	Effective	Until
Weslaco ISD (all)	Closed		May 14, 2009
Our Lady Of Sorrows- McAllen	Closed	May 1, 2009	May 6 th , 2009
Donna ISD (all)	Closed	May 4, 2009	Further notice
Mercedes ISD (all)	Closed	May 5, 2009	Further notice

Hidalgo County Health & Human Services does not recommend cancellation of school or child activities, with the exception of Weslaco ISD. If any child involved in the school or child activity shows any of the flu-like symptoms, send the child home. For districts other than Weslaco ISD, the only school activities to consider cancelling would be those activities involving students with medical special needs, whom are more susceptible to contracting the H1N1 flu.

Texas Education Agency: For information, visit www.tea.state.tx.us. For information about UIL events, academic or athletic, visit www.uil.utexas.edu, for the adjusted calendar.

Texas Department of State Health Services: For general information use the DSHS website: www.dshs.state.tx.us/swineflu. DSHS has also created a website, www.texasflu.org, for Texas flu information, as well as the option to sign up for email alerts as information changes.

State Operations Center (SOC): For the SOC situation report, visit the Governor’s Division of Emergency Management website: www.txdps.state.tx.us/dem.

United States Health & Human Services (HHS): For national H1N1 Flu information and associated travel alerts, the CDC website is: <http://www.cdc.gov/swineflu/>.

2. AREAS AFFECTED BY EVENT:

LRGV Regional Impact: Cameron County, Hidalgo County, Starr County, Willacy County.

Hidalgo County Impact: County-Wide

3. RESPONDING AGENCIES/ORGANIZATIONS AND RESOURCES COMMITTED:

Health & Human Services	Incident Command
Emergency Services Division	Support staff for IC, IAP, Sit Rep, Hotline
County Judge’s Office	Public Information
Safety Division	Monitor & Educate County Departments
Budget & Management	Budget allocations
Purchasing	Resource Procurement, Hotline Operators
Auditor	Documentation
Buildings & Grounds	Sanitation
Information Technology	Technology support
UT Rural Health Studies – Brownsville	Analyst support

4. CASUALTIES: No fatalities in Hidalgo County.

5. EVACUATIONS: None.

6. SHELTERS: None.

COMMENTS:

Hidalgo County Health & Human Services and Emergency Services continue to monitor the situation and will issue additional reports as necessary.

J.D. Salinas, III, Hidalgo County Judge
Eduardo Olivarez, Incident Commander
Tony Pena, Emergency Management Coordinator