



COUNTY OF HIDALGO, EMERGENCY OPERATIONS CENTER (EOC)

SUBJECT: AH1N1 Flu (Swine Influenza)

SITUATION REPORT #8

DATE AND TIME COVERED: Thursday, May 07, 2009, 17:00 – Friday, May 08, 2009, 9:30

1. **CURRENT SITUATION:** Due to the health emergency that exists in the State of Texas, the Rio Grande Valley and Hidalgo County, the Emergency Operations Center has been activated to assist Health Authorities coordinate activities. Demobilization of the EOC has begun, and will be shut down by close of business today, Friday, May 8th. County Health and Human Services will continue to monitor the situation for the duration. Situation reports will issued as necessary.

As of May 8, 2009, 9:30, 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, six (6) probable case and 344 suspect cases, and eleven (11) hospitalized influenza like illness (ILI) 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.

Date	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
5/04/09	225	1	1	0	0
5/05/09 10:00	243	1	1	0	0
5/05/09	243	3	1	0	0
5/06/09 10:00	262	4	1	0	0
5/06/09 17:00	262	4	1	0	0
5/07/09	286	6	1	2	0
5/07/09 16:30	307	6	1	11	0
5/08/09 9:30	344	6	1	11	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 UT Rural Health Studies to gather data from this event for analysis.

Hidalgo County has received rapid tests to be distributed to Federally Qualified Health Clinics, upon request. DSHS has recommended that testing should only be ordered for the most critical patients.

Hidalgo County has received antiviral medications, Relenza & Tamiflu. Distribution to Federally Qualified Health Clinics is directly from the State. There is no shortage of meds at this time.

Hidalgo County has activated the Hidalgo County Flu Information Hotline, open during normal County business hours, from 8am-5pm, Monday thru Friday. The number is 1-866-613-5277. The hotline will not be active on the weekend.

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 the Hidalgo County Judge's Office, 956-318-2600 or visit the Hidalgo County website: www.co.hidalgo.tx.us/pharmacy.

HEB has been contracted by the State to distribute free or discounted Tamiflu and Relenza to families in need. Hidalgo County is working with local pharmacies to distribute free or discounted meds as well.

Wildfires in South and Central America may be contributing to respiratory complications of the last few days here in the RGV. The smoke-filled air from the south is traveling directly over the Valley.

Mexican Consulate: As of May 8, 2009, 9:00, there is (1) confirmed case along the Mexican side of the Texas/Mexico border along the Rio Grande Valley, in the state of Tamaulipas. Consul Representative reports that High Schools and University level schools will resume classes today. Classes at elementary level will resume on Monday. Businesses have re-opened throughout Mexico today.

School Closures: School closures in Hidalgo County include all campuses in the Weslaco ISD, until May 11th. Weslaco ISD staff is working on Friday, May 8, 2009 for cleaning the schools, and classes will resume on May 11th. Donna ISD has decided to close all campuses as well until May 12th. Mercedes ISD has closed all schools until May 11th. No other public schools have been closed in Hidalgo County.

School	Status	Effective	Until
Weslaco ISD (all)	Closed		May 11, 2009
Our Lady Of Sorrows- McAllen	Closed	May 1, 2009	May 6 th , 2009
Donna ISD (all)	Closed	May 4, 2009	May 12, 2009
Mercedes ISD (all)	Closed	May 5, 2009	May 11, 2009
First Christian Academy, Weslaco	Closed		May 8, 2009
IDEA, Donna	Closed		May 11, 2009
IRRA, Weslaco	Closed		May 11, 2009

Hidalgo County Health & Human Services does not recommend cancellation of school or child activities. If any child involved in the school or child activity shows any of the flu-like symptoms, send the child home. 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.

With schools going back to session, Hidalgo County Health & Human Services recommends for schools to diligently monitor flu-like illnesses in their school, as well as absenteeism.

The University of Texas Pan American will have commencement exercises as scheduled.

Travel: Airlines maintain a high level of alert, and is at their discretion of who may board and who may not board, based on the airline's assessment of the traveler at check-in.

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. UIL will go back to normal operations beginning May 11, 2009.

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. DSHS has declared the H1N1 influenza as a regular flu, not as lethal as originally thought.

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
Workforce Solutions	Hotline operators
UT Rural Health Studies	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