

# Appendix

## Table of Contents

- DSHS Contact Information A.2
  - DSHS Central Office Influenza Surveillance Team A.2
  - DSHS Laboratory A.2
  - DSHS Regional Influenza Surveillance Coordinators A.3
- LRN Contact Information A.4
- Where to Find Influenza Data A.5
- Recommended Influenza Resources A.6
- Nasopharyngeal Swab Collection for Influenza A.7
- Investigation and Report Forms A.8

## DSHS Contact Information

### DSHS Central Office Influenza Surveillance Team

Influenza reports, VTM orders and influenza surveillance questions should be sent to [flutexas@dshs.state.tx.us](mailto:flutexas@dshs.state.tx.us). All members of the team have access to and monitor this email box.

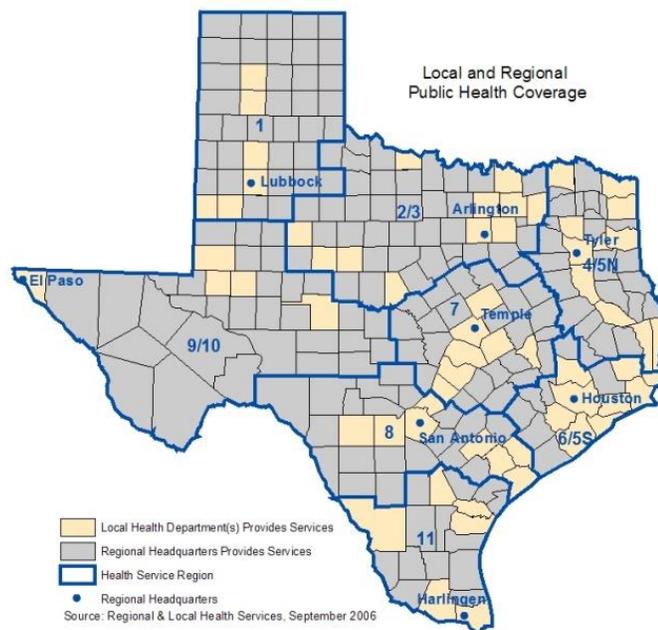
Lesley Brannan	Epidemiologist / Respiratory Team Lead	<a href="mailto:lesley.brannan@dshs.state.tx.us">lesley.brannan@dshs.state.tx.us</a>	512-776-6354
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### DSHS Laboratory

Crystal Van Cleave	Microbiologist / Viral Isolation Team Lead	<a href="mailto:crystal.vancleave@dshs.state.tx.us">crystal.vancleave@dshs.state.tx.us</a>	512-776-7594
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Adrian Cervantes	Container Preparation Group Team Lead	<a href="mailto:adrian.cervantes@dshs.state.tx.us">adrian.cervantes@dshs.state.tx.us</a>	512-776-2976
Dorothy Breeden	Container Preparation Group Manager	<a href="mailto:dorothy.breeden@dshs.state.tx.us">dorothy.breeden@dshs.state.tx.us</a>	512-776-2674
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Vanessa Telles	Special Projects Coordinator (LRNs), Emergency Preparedness Branch	<a href="mailto:vanessa.telles@dshs.state.tx.us">vanessa.telles@dshs.state.tx.us</a>	512-776-3475

**DSHS Regional Influenza Surveillance Coordinators**

Cindy Hernandez	Region 1 Influenza Surveillance Coordinator	<a href="mailto:cynthiia.hernandez@dshs.state.tx.us">cynthiia.hernandez@dshs.state.tx.us</a>	806-783-6448
Scott Mize	Region 2/3 Influenza Surveillance Coordinator	<a href="mailto:scott.mize@dshs.state.tx.us">scott.mize@dshs.state.tx.us</a>	817-264-4706
Stephanie Williamson	Region 4/5N Influenza Surveillance Coordinator	<a href="mailto:stephanie.williamson@dshs.state.tx.us">stephanie.williamson@dshs.state.tx.us</a>	903-533-5328
Huai Lin	Region 6/5S Influenza Surveillance Coordinator	<a href="mailto:huai.lin@dshs.state.tx.us">huai.lin@dshs.state.tx.us</a>	713-767-3232
Sandi Henley	Region 7 Influenza Surveillance Coordinator	<a href="mailto:sandi.henley@dshs.state.tx.us">sandi.henley@dshs.state.tx.us</a>	254-771-6729
Connie Alaniz (acting)	Region 8 Influenza Surveillance Coordinator	<a href="mailto:connie.alaniz@dshs.state.tx.us">connie.alaniz@dshs.state.tx.us</a>	210-949-2066
LaTonya Cabiness	Region 9/10 Influenza Surveillance Coordinator	<a href="mailto:latonya.cabiness@dshs.state.tx.us">latonya.cabiness@dshs.state.tx.us</a>	432-571-4110
Vivienne Heines	Region 11 Influenza Surveillance Coordinator	<a href="mailto:vivienne.heines@dshs.state.tx.us">vivienne.heines@dshs.state.tx.us</a>	361-878-3510



## LRN Contact Information

LRN Location	Name	Position	Office Phone
Corpus Christi	Valerie Requenez	BT Coordinator	361-826-7214
Dallas	Daniel Serinaldi Joey Stringer	BT Coordinator Flu Coordinator	972-692-2764 972-692-2762
El Paso	Minerva Cutter	BT Coordinator	915-543-3255
South Texas/ Harlingen	Kristina Zamora	BT Coordinator	956-364-8369
Houston	Meilan Bielby	Supervisor, Molecular Diagnostics Section	832-393-3956
Lubbock	Anna Gibson	BT Coordinator	806-885-0232
San Antonio	Patricia Blevins	BT Coordinator	210-207-5883
Tarrant County	Rebecca McMath	BT Coordinator	817-321-4755
Tyler	Janine Yost	BT Coordinator	903-877-5056



## Where to Find Influenza Data

### World Health Organization

- Influenza page: <http://www.who.int/csr/disease/influenza/en/>
- Disease Outbreak News: <http://www.who.int/csr/don/en/index.html>

### Centers for Disease Control and Prevention

- Weekly surveillance reports: <http://www.cdc.gov/flu/weekly/fluactivitysurv.htm>

### Texas Department of State Health Services

- Infectious Disease Control Unit influenza surveillance page:  
<http://www.dshs.state.tx.us/idcu/disease/influenza/surveillance/>
- Texasflu.org surveillance page [including 2009 influenza A (H1N1) data]:  
<http://www.dshs.state.tx.us/txflu/TX-surveillance.shtm>

### Department of Defense

- Naval Health Research Center Operational Infectious Diseases Department:  
<http://www.med.navy.mil/sites/nhrc/geis/Pages/default.aspx>

## Recommended Influenza Resources

### World Health Organization

- Influenza page: <http://www.who.int/csr/disease/influenza/en/>
- WHO on Twitter: WHO @WHO

### U.S. Department of Health and Human Services

- Flu and Pandemic Flu website: <http://www.flu.gov/>

### Centers for Disease Control and Prevention

- Seasonal Influenza website: <http://www.cdc.gov/flu/>

### Texas Department of State Health Services

- Main influenza page: <http://www.texasflu.org>
- Infectious Disease Control Unit flu page: <http://www.dshs.state.tx.us/idcu/disease/influenza/>
- Immunization Branch website: <http://www.dshs.state.tx.us/immunize/>

### Center for Infectious Disease Research and Policy (CIDRAP)

- <http://www.cidrap.umn.edu/>

### International Society for Infectious Diseases – ProMed mail

- <http://www.promedmail.org/>

## Nasopharyngeal Swab Collection for Influenza

### MATERIALS FOR NASOPHARYNGEAL SWAB COLLECTION:

- Nasopharyngeal swab: Dacron or rayon tipped with a flexible plastic shaft
  - Note: cotton-tipped or calcium alginate swabs are not acceptable
- Thawed viral transport medium (check expiration date and discard if expired)
- Gloves (suggested gloves are powder-free)
- Mask for covering nose and mouth of health worker (e.g., surgical mask)
- Facial tissues (for patient use)
- Eye protection/goggles for health worker (to protect from coughs, sneezes or splashes)

### NASOPHARYNGEAL SWAB COLLECTION PROCEDURE:

- Wash or sanitize your hands and put on a mask with face shield or with goggles.
- Ask the patient to look slightly upward and steady the patient's head with one hand under his or her chin if necessary.
- Gently insert dry swab through one nostril horizontally (**straight back not upwards**), along the floor of the nasal passage into the nasopharynx. The distance from the nose to the ear gives an estimate of the distance the swab should be inserted. If resistance is encountered during insertion, remove the swab and attempt insertion into the opposite nostril.
- Rotate swab 2 to 3 times and leave in place for up to 10 seconds.
- Remove the swab slowly. Offer the patient a tissue in case he or she is going to sneeze or cough.
- Immediately place swab into the viral transport medium. Break off or cut the shaft of the swab so that it fits completely into the tube.
- Label the VTM vial with the patient's first name, last name and date of birth.
- Completely fill out the DSHS G-2V Laboratory Specimen Submission Form.
- Store the vial at 2-8°C until ready to ship. Specimens need to be shipped cold with enough ice packs to maintain the temperature. **Cold specimens must be received by the DSHS laboratory within 72 hours of collection.** Specimens may also be stored frozen and shipped on dry ice. Frozen specimens may be received by the DSHS lab  $\geq$  72 hours after collection if they are shipped on dry ice and arrive frozen.

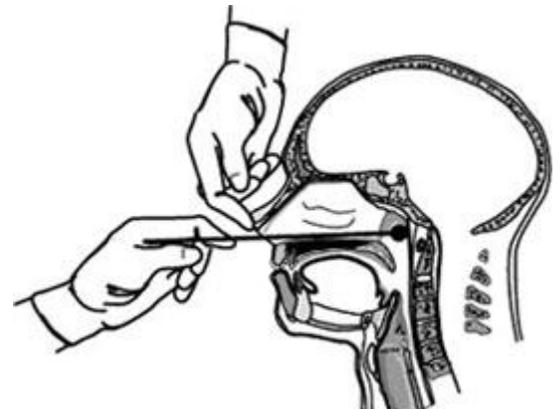


Image: CDC Manual for the Surveillance of Vaccine-Preventable Diseases, 4th ed, 2008

A video demonstrating proper technique for nasopharyngeal collection is available at <http://www.cdc.gov/pertussis/clinical/diagnostic-testing/specimen-collection.html>. The video references collecting two swabs for pertussis testing. Only one swab is needed for influenza / influenza-like illness surveillance testing.

## Investigation and Report Forms

Investigation and report forms are available on the DSHS website at:

<http://www.dshs.state.tx.us/idcu/investigation/>

The following investigation and/or report forms are available for influenza:

Form	Description	Required
Influenza-associated pediatric death investigation form	This form is to investigate and report cases of influenza-associated mortality in children under 18 years of age.	Yes
General influenza investigation form	This form is to investigate cases of influenza such as during an outbreak or during periods of unusual flu activity. It is also used for investigating novel influenza.	Only for novel influenza or when requested
Influenza investigation form supplemental pages	This form captures information that is not always needed in an influenza investigation but has been requested in the past by the CDC for special situations including novel influenza, out of season influenza, pregnant/postpartum influenza, etc.	Only for novel influenza or when requested
Respiratory disease contact tracking form	This form is designed to help keep track of contacts in a respiratory or invasive disease investigation.	Only for novel influenza or when requested
Respiratory disease outbreak summary form	This form is to report respiratory disease outbreaks. The form captures information that is routinely requested during outbreaks and includes information to help meet performance measures associated with the Public Health Emergency Preparedness (PHEP) funds.	Yes