Public Health and Healthcare Response to Hurricane Harvey

Presentation to the Task Force on Infectious Disease Preparedness and Response

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Presentation Overview

• DSHS Responsibilities in Emergency Response
• DSHS Hurricane Harvey Response Efforts
• Public Health Recovery Efforts
DSHS Responsibilities in Emergency Response
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DSHS responsibilities fall under the State of Texas Emergency Management Plan.

• Emergency Support Function 8: coordinating public health and medical response during emergencies
• Annex D: Radiological Emergency Management Annex
DSHS Responsibilities in Emergency Response

• While emergency response begins at the local level, DSHS plays a vital role when:
  • There is no local health department
  • The response exceeds local capacity
  • Large events involve multiple jurisdictions
  • Response involves areas with no local component
• DSHS operates the State Medical Operations Center (SMOC)
  • SMOC operates in coordination with the State Operations Center (SOC) operated by the Texas Division of Emergency Management (TDEM).
• Personnel and resources from across DSHS are utilized to respond to an emergency.
DSHS Hurricane Harvey Efforts
DSHS Hurricane Harvey Efforts

- DSHS efforts by the numbers:
  - **689** DSHS staff involved in response
  - **149** DSHS personnel staffed SMOC
  - **990** medical response missions
  - **3,200** medical patient evacuations
  - **1,800** patients treated by mobilized medical units
  - **142** patients transferred
  - **70,000** vaccines distributed
  - **6,765,971** acres treated for mosquito control
- Total DSHS as of September 20th: **$41,218,005**
DSHS Hurricane Harvey Efforts

DSHS Hurricane Harvey efforts included a diverse array of public health activities across the state to assist people impacted by the storm.

Some of these activities include:

- **Medical personnel**: The Emergency Medical Task Force (EMTF) provides rapid coordinated support for medical evacuations and patient care
- **Medical assets**: Establish mobile medical units to treat, stabilize, and transport individuals, as well as medical shelters for evacuees with medical needs
- **Vector control**: Activate aerial and ground spraying to control mosquito populations
- **Immunizations**: Provide vaccine and medication for responders and impacted individuals
- **Impacted facilities**: Maintain situational awareness and provide assistance to healthcare facilities as needed
- **Public health education and outreach**: Disseminate critical safety information through various platforms about how to prepare for a disaster and how to protect yourself after flooding
- **Monitor public health risks**: Analyze data and information to identify post-event risks such as environmental, food-borne illnesses, vector-borne diseases, and other infectious diseases
DSHS Hurricane Harvey Efforts

- Evacuated/Closed: 20
- Internal Disaster: 25

Hospitals Impacted by Hurricane Harvey

Hospital Status
- Evacuated/Closed
- Internal Disaster
- Normal Operation
Counties sprayed: 29

Approximate number of acres sprayed: 6,765,971
Public Health Recovery Efforts
Public Health Recovery Efforts

DSHS is engaged in ongoing public health recovery efforts.

• **Food Safety:** The Texas Rapid Response Team (TRRT) has been activated to monitor and respond to any food-related incidents

• **Impact Assessment:** Working with locals to assess impact to public health and medical infrastructure, public health issues relating from the disaster, identify gaps, and provide support as appropriate

• **After Action:** Identifying lessons learned to produce a comprehensive statewide Public Health and Medical After Action Report and Improvement Plan

• **Asset Recovery:** Assessing resources expended during the emergency in order to replace and repair equipment in preparation for future responses

• **Reimbursement:** Working with entities involved in response to ensure documentation necessary for Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) reimbursement has been completed

• **Data and Statistics:** Analyzing death certificates, reviewing media reports, and contacting medical examiners and justices of the peace to identify hurricane-related deaths
After Action Review Timeline

- Sept. 21: DSHS regional director hot wash
- Sept. 26-27: Emergency Medical Task Force hot wash
- Oct. 5: DSHS executive team hot wash
- Oct. 24: State Medical Operations Center hot wash
- Oct. 24: Regional Health Medical Operations Centers (RHMOCs) hot wash
- Oct. 30: Texas Hospital Association Lessons Learned Forum
After Action Review Timeline

- **Oct. 31**: DSHS agency hot wash
- **As needed**: SMOC Section Chiefs 1-on-1 hot washes
- **Nov. 14**: Immunizations hot wash
- **Nov. 16**: Vector control hot wash
- **On-going**: Drafting Harvey After Action Report / Improvement Plan
- **Mar. 1**: Completion of the final Hurricane Harvey Improvement Plan
Preliminary After Action Areas of Focus

• Medical sheltering
• Medical evacuation and transportation
• Patient repopulation
• Resource staging and deployment
• Immunizations response
• Vector control
• Medical volunteer and donation management
• Public health surge capacity
• Health impact tracking
Thank you