

2025 Measles Outbreak Response – PHR & SMOC Support

January 20th, 2026

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Health Services

Outline

- PHR Initial Response / Measles Timeline
- Communications
- Central Office & CDC Support
- Case Investigations
- Specimen Collection & Testing
- Healthcare Facilities
- Vaccination Clinics
- SMOC Support
- Lessons Learned – Contractor Deployments
- Lessons Learned – PHR Deployments

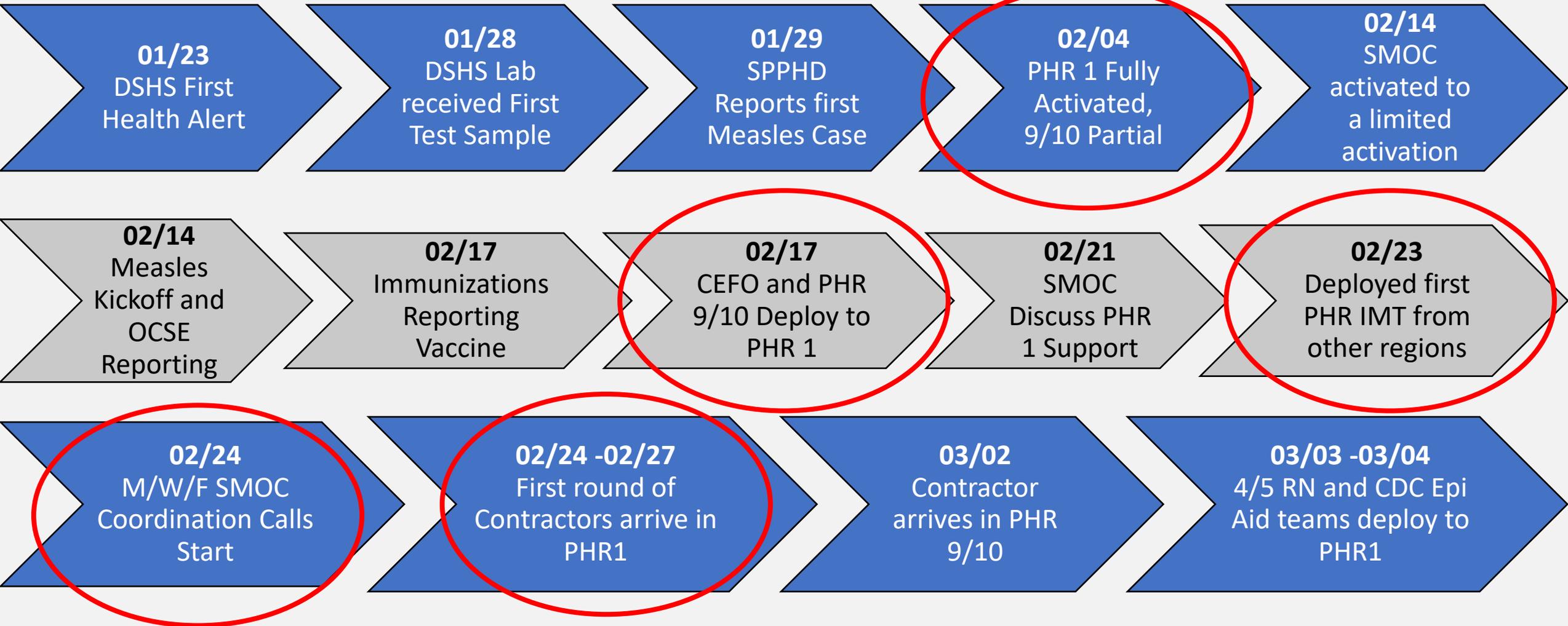


Initial Regional Response

- South Plains Public Health District (SPPHD) notified DSHS PHR 1 Epidemiology of a suspected measles case on 1/23/2025.
- Lubbock hospital notified PHR 1 of two additional hospitalized suspect measles cases on 1/27, requesting approval for testing by DSHS lab.
- Two hospitalized cases were confirmed measles by PCR on 1/30.
- DSHS issued a News Release of cases in Gaines County on 1/30, notification of measles cases in the region was sent to healthcare providers and school districts on 1/31, and DSHS issued a health alert on 2/5.



Measles DSHS Timeline



Measles DSHS Timeline

03/22
NEMR
Deployed to
PHR1 – IMT
support

04/01
All CDC Epi-
Aid Teams
demobed

04/15
CDC
deployed
Epi-Aids and
EISO to PHR1

04/25–05/05
CDC
demobed
Epi-Aids and
EISO

05/27
Final PHR
support
Personnel
Demobed

05/29
PHR1
Limited
Activation
Status

06/03
Final PHR 9/10
Contractor
demobed

06/06
PHR 9/10
Normal
Operations

06/20
PHR 1
Normal
Operations

06/20
Final PHR 1
Contractors
demobed

08/12
DSHS Declares End to Texas Measles Outbreak
(no cases reported in past 42 days in Texas)

2025 Measles Outbreak Response

- **Length of Operations**
02/02 – 08/12
 - Total Days: 192
- **Length of SMOC**
Limited Activation
02/14 – 06/20
 - Total Days: 126



RHMOC Activation / ICS Structure

- Regional Health and Medical Operation Center was activated on 2/2
- Activated under Unified Command (PHR 1, SPPHD, City of Lubbock Health Department (COLHD))
- ICS positions pulled from PHR 1, COLHD and SPPHD
- Implemented Epidemiology/Intelligence Section in Operations Section
- Additional staff were pulled into RHMOC with support from SMOC



Regional Programmatic Support

- PHR 1 Preparedness and Response Program used staff from other programs in the RHMOC (Environmental Health, Community Health, Nursing, Core Program Support)
- Nursing Staff for field clinics (vaccination and specimen collection)
- Immunization Staff for vaccine/measles Ig management/distribution



Communication/Information Sharing

- Daily RHMOC Battle Rhythm was established.
- Strategy Meetings conducted with Local Health Jurisdictions
- Conference Calls with the DSHS SMOC, VPD/Emerging and Acute Infectious Disease Unit/ Immunizations, Commissioner Measles Update
- Notifications/distribution of educational materials to County Officials
- Measles Guidance distributed – healthcare facilities and school districts
- Educational materials developed across jurisdictions (local state, federal)



Central Office Support

Consultation with:

- Vaccine Preventable Disease Group
- Immunizations Program
- Office of Chief State Epidemiologist
- Media Relations Office – conduit of information to the press
- Immunization – provision of Ig IM, vaccine
- Regional and Local Health Operations
- Laboratory



CDC Support

CDC Epi-Aid was requested on February 28th, 1st team arrived on March 5th. Deployed to City of Lubbock, SPPHD, PHR 1.

Focus:

- Measles infection control in hospitals
- Community engagement in Gaines County
- PHR 1 Data Analysis
- SME for development of educational materials
- Helped hospitals develop measles-tailored infection control procedures
- CDC team lead had experience with Mennonite Community



Case Investigations

Epidemiology

- Case Investigations (large case load, pulled all PHR 1 and SPPHD case investigations into headquarters for)
- Contact Tracing
- Data Analysis

Issues

- Lack of cooperation during case investigations
- Need of a cross-jurisdictional-accessible line list - visibility



Specimen Collection/Testing

Measles PCR Specimens:

- Collected at fixed clinic sites
- Specimen Collection Strike Team
- Specimens collected in PHR 1/SPPHD jurisdictions processed at PHR 1 Headquarters
- Specimens Submitted to:
 - DSHS Laboratory (initially)
 - Texas Tech University Bioterrorism Response Laboratory – LRN (came on board with measles testing on March 8th)



Healthcare Facilities

Successes:

- Utilization of the DSHS Healthcare Safety Unit HAI Epidemiologists for investigations
- CDC assistance in healthcare facilities developing measles-specific infection control policies/procedures

Challenges:

- Initially roles and responsibilities of PHR 1 and HAI Epidemiologists in responding to healthcare site exposures.
- Healthcare facilities not providing timely notification of potential exposures



MMR Vaccination Clinics

- Initial Clinics at SPPHD office in Seminole then school-based clinics and other community-based Clinics
- Standing Clinics in heavily impacted outbreak counties, open 7 days per week with exception of severe weather, holidays (later in the response)
- Staffed with PHR 1, SPPHD, and contractors
- 279 clinic operations conducted (including daily standing clinics)
- Initially, immunization population-specific vaccine (ASN, TVFC), could not provide vaccine to the entire population but then response measles IG IM was provided widely



State Medical Operations Center (SMOC)

Support to Measles Response

- Assisting with coordination of the following activities:
 - Information Collection, Management, Analysis and Dissemination
 - Coordination of calls, meetings, distribution of 82 Agency SITREPs
 - Purchase and deployment of medical supplies and equipment (EpiPens, ancillary supplies, PPE, etc.)
 - Tracking Hospital bed capacity and hospitalization reporting and tracking
 - Command and Control of DSHS and federal resources
 - Activation and Deployment of 112 personnel to PHRs and local jurisdictions
 - Provided 62 medical staff (nurses, LVNs, RNs) for specimen collection & vac clinics
 - Provided 16 public health staffing (epidemiologist, epi data entry with NEDSS, case investigators)
 - Provided IMT staffing (5 contractors & 29 others from PHRs)

Lessons Learned – Contractor Deployment

Challenges:

- Locked contractors into roles & locations
- Flexibility in mission...don't limit them in doing one thing (only vaccine administration or only testing)
- Some clinics/sites operated non-traditional schedules
- Work hours & # authorized per week were not flexible

Lessons Learned:

- Ask the requestor what will this operation look like in:
 - 1 week, 1 month, beyond
- Build the request with the future in mind
- Allow flexibility in location, hours & duties in SMA & build with CMS (when appropriate)



Lessons Learned – Lean on the Bench (PHR)

- **Challenges:**

- PHR1 extended by continuous response
- With their own measles concerns, other PHRs could not provide continued support

- **How we pivoted to support PHR 1:**

- **SMOC CMD:**

- Identified roles and needs from PHR I
- Built a tentative schedule
- Surveyed all other regions for potential support
- Identified and confirmed support with Region
- SMOC LOGs built and issued Activation Orders for each deploying team member
- SMOC and PHR tracked deployment and demob dates.
- Confirmed safe arrival
- SMOC continued to reevaluate needs
- Utilize Contractors to fill gaps



Lessons Learned – Lean on the Bench

	Week 9	Week 10	Week 11	Week 12	Week 13	Week 14	
Revision date: 4/18/2025	Apr 21 - Apr 29	Apr 28-May 6	May 5-May 13	May 12-May 20	May 19-May 27	May 26-Jun 3	Filling Gaps
EPI I	No Fill	No Fill	No Fill	No Fill	No Fill	No Fill	
EPI II (Lead)	No Fill	No Fill	No Fill	Conner (7) [travel day on May 11th and return travel day May 18th]	Ethan Portillo (11)	No Fill	4/16 wait on Week 12 and 13 to see if these individuals are still needed per Kevin
PARM	No Fill	No Fill	Bonnie Morehead (7) [travel dates are May 4 and May 10th]	No Fill	No Fill	No Fill	
Deputy IC	No Fill	NEMR	NEMR	NEMR	NEMR	NEMR	4/15 Requesting NEMR to fill Deputy slots
Planning & Intelligence Chief	No Fill	No Fill	No Fill	Jay Escamilla-Newell (11)	Jay Escamilla-Newell (11)	Revaqua Lavarío (9/10-HIV/STD TL)	
Planning & Intelligence Deputy Chief	Natasha Douglas-DEPUTY CHIEF Preferred (6/5)	NEMR	NEMR	NEMR	NEMR	NEMR	4/15 Requesting NEMR to fill Deputy slots
Operations Chief	Meaghan Chesley (6/5)	No Fill	Imperial Lopez (9/10- PHPSI)	Julia Butler (7) [travel day on May 11th and return travel day May 18th]	No Fill	No Fill	
Deputy Operations Chief	No Fill	NEMR	NEMR	NEMR	NEMR	NEMR	4/15 Requesting NEMR to fill Deputy slots
Logistics Chief	No Fill	No Fill	Kassandra Zuniga (11)	Elida Torres (11)	Elida Torres (11)	No Fill	
Deputy Logistics Chief	No Fill	NEMR	NEMR	NEMR	NEMR	NEMR	4/15 Requesting NEMR to fill Deputy slots

Questions or Comments

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Health Services