

# 2009 Pandemic H1N1 Influenza: A Case Study in Border Response

*A Workshop for U.S. & Mexico Border States*



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San Diego CA



*Sponsored by:*

**California Department of Public Health**

The California Office of Binational Border Health  
Early Warning Infectious Disease Surveillance Program (EWIDS)

[www.cdph.ca.gov/programs/cobbh](http://www.cdph.ca.gov/programs/cobbh)

## Objectives

- 1) Provide a forum for binational discussion on the response to the 2009 Pandemic Influenza A (H1N1) outbreak.
  - 2) Enhance and strengthen existing communication networks.
  - 3) Facilitate a binational discussion for best practices regarding community mitigation, education and outreach.
  - 4) Discuss feasibility of establishing a standardized binational surveillance / reporting system along the U.S.-Mexico Border.
- Representation from Mexico and the US at the federal, state and local levels (9/10 Border States)
  - Approximately 80 participants, representing 30+ agencies.
  - 2 day workshop consisted of plenary sessions and workgroups.



# Laboratory - Recommendations

- Laboratories responded by working extended shifts, creating 24 hour work schedules, reassigning and training staff, borrowing supplies, acquiring new equipment, etc.
- There was comprehensive agreement that the following issues need to be addressed:
  - ***Staffing***
  - ***Improved reporting processes***
  - ***Equipment***
  - ***Transportation***
  - ***Lab testing and reporting standardization.***



# Epidemiology - Recommendations

- Throughout the border region enhanced surveillance included *emergency operation center activation, institutional based surveillance (schools, prisons, and nursing homes), year round surveillance, increased communication frequency, and expanded sentinel networks group.*
- Gaps in surveillance/ identified areas for improvement:
  - ***Harmonization of cases definitions***
  - ***Binational and cross state information sharing***
  - ***Increase influenza surveillance sites***
  - ***Surveillance evaluation***
  - ***Establish Border Influenza Surveillance Technical Advisory Committee***



# Community Mitigation - Recommendations

- During the H1N1 outbreak successful community mitigation took place in all states on both sides of the border: *school closures, voluntary quarantine, radio and television messages, print materials, and community health educators.*
- **The priority areas identified were:**
  - ***Minimizing adverse secondary effects on individuals / communities***
  - ***Reliable communication***
  - ***Transparent and multidirectional information***
  - ***Effective use of media***
  - ***Flexibility and adaptability.***
  - ***Maintain public's trust***



# EWIDS: Steps Taken

- Enhance ILI Surveillance
  - U.S / Mexico Tribal population (Campo, Alpine and San Antonio de Necua)
  - Mexico (2 sites in Mexicali, 1 in Tecate, and 2 in Tijuana)
  - Migrant farmworkers (Vista Community Clinic)
  - Salton Sea (1 additional site).
  - Incorporate reporting into U.S.-Mexico borderwide report.
- Education
  - Promotora (peer educator) training for Flu.
  - Dissemination bilingual print materials throughout state.



# ***California Department of Public Health***

- **Infectious Disease Emergency Preparedness & Response Branch ( ID-EPRB)**
  - **Support statewide readiness to respond to an ID emergency.**
  - **Ensure readiness of CID/DCDC staff to respond to ID emergencies.**
  - **Assure CDPH capability to detect an ID emergency.**
  - **Assure surveillance capabilities to monitor status of an ID emergency.**
  - **Assure the implementation of an appropriate / effective public health response to ID threats.**
  - **Investigate, contain, and mitigate acute ID threats.**
  - **Ensure appropriate management of EP funds and resources.**

