Texas Medical Association
Border Health Caucus
14th Annual Border Health Conference

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Binational Significance

- Largest Inland Port of Entry into the US
- Largest Custom District
  - 12,000 trailers cross WTB daily
  - 80,000 pedestrians cross daily
  - 1,846,282 trucks
  - 518,560 rail
- International Surveillance
- Follow International Health Regulations (IHR)
Infectious Disease Threats

- Influenza (Flu)
- Vaccine Preventable (Mumps)
- Infectious Diseases (Tuberculosis, HIV/STD)
- Food and Waterborne Disease
- Other Emerging and New Public Health Threats
  - Dengue, West Nile Fever, Chikungunya, Zika
  - Lyme, and Typhus (flea and Tick)
  - Spotted Group Rickettsioses
- Co-infections
Surveillance

- All Communicable Diseases and All Hazards tracking 24/7; 365 days
- FLU, Rash, Fever, Diarrhea
- Provider Network Duval, Zapata, Jim Hogg & Webb Counties & Mexico
- Arboviral, Vectorborne, Infectious, food and water borne Surveillance
  - Mosquito Trapping, Testing, Sensitivity
- Reporting and Health Alerts
• Public Health Emergency Response
• Vaccine, Chemical Agent Response
• Online Pesticide Health Management
• Epidemiology Disease Outbreak Control
• Incident Command System
• Forensic Response
• Infectious Disease Detection and prevention
• Opioid and substance use
Bi-National Preparedness

• Exchange Epidemiological Data between Los Dos Laredos, Mexico, and Internationally
• Sustain Bi-national Point of Contact Directory
• Establish Travel Exposure
  - Contact with a person from another country during the infectious period for the disease
• Train and Simulate
• Develop Formal Agreements
• Exercise with ASPR Office of International Health
Binational Cooperation, Coordination and Communication
Los Dos Laredos Bi-National Council

- Since September 1998
- Meets monthly alternating between Laredo, Texas and Nuevo Laredo, Tamaulipas.
Bi-National Case Criteria

- Cases require collaboration of both countries for disease investigation and/or control
- Texas residents seeks medical care in Tamaulipas
- Tamaulipas notifies Texas of resident in critical condition in Tamaulipas hospital
- Both sides collaborate to get specimen crossed to Texas for testing
• Follow International Health Regulations
• Binational monthly meetings ongoing for over 40 years
• Weekly communication with Mexico (Nuevo Laredo) to discuss surveillance, morbidity and mosquito control activities
• Monthly Epidemiology Meetings
Other Public Health Response

- Food Management
- Zoonosis Control
- Vector Control
- Immunizations
- All Hazards Management
- Environmental Risks
- HIV/STI
- Tuberculosis
Immunization Challenges

- Do not want to vaccinate—do not see disease
- Exemptions
- Pertussis in adults that spread to children
- Tdap new mandate
- Syphilis testing in last trimester
Laboratory

- Testing
  - Disease Control
  - Biohazards
  - Patient Treatment
- Environmental
  - Water Sampling
  - Food Testing
- Bio-Safety Lab III (LRN) for Biological Threats
- Lab Surveillance
• Use this model for other infectious diseases and emergencies affecting pregnancy (reduce maternal fetal morbidity and mortality)
• Improve laboratory testing capacity response
• Integrate other wellness and prevention Services in women's health and well child
  ○ Behavioral health and substance use
  ○ Disease self management
  ○ Birth defects detection and well child development
New and Emerging

- Increase Behavioral Health and Substance use prevention awareness
- Increase substance use knowledge
  - Implement treatment and prevention services (Naloxone)
  - Increase treatment providers to use buprenorphine
- Increase access and availability to detox, rehabilitation and treatment and prevention services
Current, New & Emerging Threats

• Emerging Diseases
  ○ Zika and Chikungunya
  ○ Novel Microorganisms (MERS-CO-V) and Ebola
  ○ MRSA
  ○ Multi-Drug Resistance
  ○ Enterovirus

• Public Health and Hospital Preparedness and Emergency Response

• Opioid Crisis

• Climate Change

• Environmental Health
New and Emerging

Aging: DSM with injury prevention and Behavioral health and nutrition
  Dementia, Parkinson and Alzheimers

MCH: Early prenatal care
  Interconception care
  Adolescent pregnancy
  Stressed Pregnancy (preeclampsia and gestational diabetes)
Ongoing - Migrant and International Health

- Migration and International Travel is a way of Life for the Texas/Mexico Border
- Provided health screening/triage to a total of 14,921 migrants.
- Triaged over 200 migrants daily El Salvador, Syria, Colombia, Venezuela, Guatemala, Brazil, Cuba, Congo.
- Directly provided patient care to 20 pregnant women,
- Handled and provided social services and support to 2 cases of human traffic,
- Treated over 80 migrants for acute illnesses and follow-up treatment for chronic disease such as diabetes, rehabilitation, cancer, and behavioral health issues.
Migrant Health

- Coordinated with local hospitals for flu and probable infectious issues for 30 cases persons
- Assisted nonprofit groups with medication/treatment and prescription support and provided over $300 in medications
- Private physicians have provided acute patient care to over 300 additional migrants.

**Solution:**

Develop Multidisciplinary Center of Excellence

- Dedicated ongoing Surveillance and Early Detection
- Lab Confirmation and Containment
- Healthcare for transient and residential and uninsured