

2009: the year of the pandemic 2009: the year of the pandemic

2009: the year of the pandemic 2009: the year of the pandemic 2009: the year of the pandemic 2009: the year of the pandemic 2009: the year of the pandemic 2009: the year of the pandemic

pandemic 2009: the year of the pandemic

2009: the year of the pandemic

2009: the year of the pandemic 2009: the year of the pandemic

2009: the year of the pandemic 2009: the year of the pandemic 2009: the year of the pandemic 2009: the year of the pandemic 2009: the year of the pandemic

2009: the year of the pandemic 2009: the year of the pandemic 2009: the year of the pandemic 2009: the year of the pandemic 2009: the year of the pandemic

2009: the year of the pandemic 2009: the year of the pandemic 2009: the year of the pandemic 2009: the year of the pandemic 2009: the year of the pandemic

sedgwick county health department annual report

h1n1

letter from the director

An international health crisis in 2009 brought a new set of challenges for the **Sedgwick County Health Department (SCHD)**. It pleases me to inform you that the Health Department had been planning for an influenza pandemic for four years and was ready to handle the **2009 H1N1 outbreak**. While there were bumps along the road, we experienced great success in H1N1 response.

In October, as H1N1 vaccine became available, the Health Department set a goal to *“vaccinate as many individuals with the least amount of inconvenience”* in an effort to minimize the number of H1N1 cases in our community and keep our residents healthy.

In the fall, the Health Department transitioned to an Incident Command Structure (ICS). This structure, developed and endorsed by the Federal Emergency Management Association (FEMA), sets up a chain of command and outlines the flow of information and management during a public emergency. The ICS delegates one person to be the “Incident Commander;” in Sedgwick County, this person was **Janice McCoy** (*Health Protection Coordinator*). On behalf of the Health Department, I offer a sincere thank-you to Janice McCoy for her hard work and dedication during H1N1 response.

To accomplish the overall goal of disease control, the Health Department worked during the past year on the following

H1N1 RESPONSE PROJECTS:

- The Epidemiology and Surveillance team continuously tracked and monitored the spread of H1N1 in Sedgwick County while keeping up with state and national disease status reports.
- Health Department staff members from various programs planned and executed a very successful vaccination clinic at the Wichita Mall in addition to several mobile clinics.
- A Flu Call Center was set up to take phone calls and e-mails from the public regarding H1N1. Associates were well-versed in H1N1 information and answered thousands of questions.
- An efficient plan to allocate and distribute vaccine to private providers and schools was created and implemented by Health Department staff.

None of these projects and accomplishments would have been possible without teamwork and the support of the community. Due to hard work, an estimated

19 percent of Sedgwick County residents had been vaccinated against H1N1 at the end of 2009.

We will continue to fight against the spread of H1N1 and other health threats in hopes of a **healthier Sedgwick County in 2010.**

Claudia Blackburn

Claudia Blackburn, RNC, MPH, CPM
Health Director, Sedgwick County Health Department

2009: the year of the pandemic

vaccinate as many individuals with the least amount of inconvenience

vaccinate as many individuals with the least amount of inconvenience

“vaccinate as many individuals with the least amount of inconvenience”

vaccinate as many individuals with the least amount of inconvenience

vaccinate as many individuals with the least amount of inconvenience



Sedgwick County...
working for you

2009: the year of the pandemic

2009: the year of the pandemic

h1n1 in sedgwick county: The First Case

When news of a novel influenza virus first began circulating, *no one knew what to expect*. There was an abundance of information, much of it conflicting, about the new virus that seemed to be affecting young people, many of whom were healthy.

The day the SCHD had been preparing for during the past four years came **May 1, 2009**. A local school nurse called to report a student had been diagnosed with H1N1 after returning from an area with confirmed H1N1 cases.

The Health Department was instructed by the Kansas Department of Health and Environment (KDHE) to send a specimen for confirmatory testing. Although H1N1 had not yet been confirmed, the case had H1N1-like symptoms, a positive preliminary lab report, and a history of travel to a known-infected area. The family was given instructions and recommendations for caring for the patient as well as educational information about H1N1. The institution of isolation for the ill student and voluntary quarantine of direct contacts was also put into practice by the epidemiology staff. This is not a routine strategy and thus required additional sensitivity and thought.

The first case of H1N1 in Sedgwick County was a whirlwind experience for the Health Department team. It took a full day (the staff stayed until midnight!) to investigate the case and his contacts and to coordinate with local and state institutions.

Since this first case, much has been learned about H1N1 and how to handle confirmed cases. While time-consuming and stressful, the successful management of the first case proved the Sedgwick County Health Department was prepared for the predicted pandemic.

epidemiology and surveillance

Cases like this and others were identified, investigated, and followed-up by the SCHD epidemiology (epi) staff. Even before the first Sedgwick County case and throughout the entire pandemic, **staff monitored surveillance data**. Some of the tools used were set up specifically for 2009 H1N1 and will be sustained in the future.

As described in the previous story, staff spent time during the Spring wave of H1N1 investigating, confirming, and corroborating data on cases. **This meant gathering information about contacts, testing, treatment, and outcomes**. The staff also worked hard to keep providers, school nurses, and child care providers educated on the latest information on the spread, containment, and environmental controls of the virus. Reassuring casual contacts of the first cases was extremely important in controlling panic and providing practical advice in mitigation strategies prior to the availability of vaccine.

A new school reporting system was put in place by the time of the Fall wave, along with five other data sources. All data was monitored constantly by epi staff for prompt awareness of disease status. Close contact with the Kansas Department of Health and Environment (KDHE) epidemiology staff, their electronic disease reporting systems, local clinic sentinel sites, and the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) was labor intensive. Besides this work, the staff also had their typical responsibilities to follow including monitoring other unrelated disease outbreaks, such as shigella and pertussis.

Hospital and health care provider partnerships were vital to keep the staff abreast of the severity of the disease locally and its impact on surrounding areas. Regular and frequent communiqués were drafted and shared with private physicians to guide their understanding of late-breaking and often-changing clinical information.



informing and educating

Health educators were intimately involved in the H1N1 response. Staff provided **51 H1N1 presentations and 74 hand washing presentations**. These presentations educated more than **8,000 individuals** in the community about the importance of hand washing and H1N1. Additionally, **43,000 hand washing and H1N1 materials** were distributed. To further educate the public, a hand washing public service announcement (PSA) was developed and aired on local public TV stations and the County Web site. Several local companies utilized the PSA for use in educating employees.

In an attempt to direct all H1N1 questions to one location, the Health Department set up the **H1N1 Flu Call Center**. Protocols and scripts were developed to ensure accurate information was provided to the community. The Call Center's phone number and e-mail address were included on news releases, calendars, flyers and all other H1N1 communications. In the latter months of 2009, the Call Center handled nearly **6,000 calls with an average answer time of 16 seconds**.

vaccine allocations

During the 2009 vaccination process, the SCHD served as the vaccine ordering and distribution center, distributing **159,700 doses of H1N1 vaccine**. To efficiently allocate and distribute vaccine to private providers in the county, the SCHD used a private provider registry that allowed providers to sign up to receive vaccine. The Health Department filled orders and arranged distribution of vaccine to **177 providers over 13 weeks**. Additionally, the SCHD placed orders for **58 direct shipments** to larger private providers in the county. Of the 159,700 doses of vaccine ordered and received by Sedgwick County, **24 percent** was allocated to the SCHD's Wichita Mall Clinic and mobile clinics throughout the county. **Fifty-six percent** was distributed to private providers (including first responders, hospitals, physician offices, pharmacies and Wichita State University's Health Services), and **20 percent** was allocated to school-located vaccine clinics.

h1n1 vaccine clinics

The Health Department administered vaccine through two main channels: a clinic at the Wichita Mall and several mobile clinics in Wichita and surrounding towns.

Primary H1N1 Vaccine Clinic: Wichita Mall

The Health Department's H1N1 Vaccine Clinic was a great success. Proof of success came to the Health Department in the form of support letters, e-mails, letters to the editor of *The Wichita Eagle*, and general positive comments and media coverage. Nearly all who visited the Health Department's H1N1 clinic left happy and pleasantly surprised by the efficiency of the operation.

Health Department staff from several programs put in numerous hours at the vaccine clinic. To further assist the public, staff members helped with *Spanish and Vietnamese interpreting and translation on site*. Many hours were dedicated to ensuring functionality of the clinic so Sedgwick County residents were vaccinated with speed and professionalism.

In addition to Health Department staff and volunteers, the Sedgwick County community contributed through an outpouring of support and assistance. The American Red Cross came to the clinic several times to offer refreshments to individuals waiting in line. COMCARE provided mental health support at the clinic and the Wichita Police Department assisted with security when there were large crowds. Many other organizations provided support through ongoing promotion of information.

More than **700 volunteers** donated countless hours at the Health Department's H1N1 Vaccine Clinic. One volunteer, **Dr. Kenneth Hull**, came out of retirement to help vaccinate Sedgwick County residents.



dr. hull, a psychiatrist who has practiced in Sedgwick County since 1973, spent several years setting up clinics for inmates in maximum security prisons and serving as the Chief of Psychiatry at the Veterans Affairs Medical Center. Dr. Hull continued to give back to the community by traveling to Western Kansas nursing homes to help with treatment of Alzheimer's. Dr. Hull retired a year and a half ago from a lifetime of dedicated service to health.

After retiring, Dr. Hull felt he still needed to give back to the community he had worked for more than 35 years. One of the first true volunteer opportunities came with the **2009 H1N1 pandemic.** Hundreds of volunteers were needed to operate the temporary H1N1 Vaccine Clinic at the Wichita Mall; Dr. Hull signed up to be a medical volunteer. He felt since he had the time and ability to assist, he should; *it was an opportunity to fight a "pretty bad virus."*

The Health Department's H1N1 Vaccine Clinic was a totally new experience for Dr. Hull. He was *"very much impressed with the County Health Department and their organization"* during the pandemic. Dr. Hull was pleasantly surprised by the efficiency and effectiveness of the clinic, stating *"wait a minute, this is a government organization; how can it be this organized?"* Looking back on his experience, Dr. Hull, like many of the hundreds of volunteers, told of how much he enjoyed working at the clinic and meeting new people - both those who volunteered and those who came to be vaccinated.

As a result of his experience as an H1N1 pandemic volunteer, Dr. Hull plans to volunteer at one or more of the local free health clinics. The SCHD was very fortunate to have volunteers like Dr. Hull working at the clinic; it could not have run as smoothly without their assistance. **The Health Department sincerely thanks each individual who assisted at the Vaccine Clinic.**



mobile clinics

The Health Department held mobile clinics to offer vaccine to those who may not have been able to get to the clinic at the Wichita Mall. **Thirty-nine mobile H1N1 vaccine clinics** were held in several communities around the Wichita area as well as in Wichita. Examples of mobile clinic locations include Headstart facilities, Rainbows United, Heartspring and shopping malls. **The largest mobile clinics vaccinated 260 individuals with eight to nine staff members in only three hours.**

wichita-sedgwick county emergency medical services system

Fire, EMS and other first responders were one of the first groups to be vaccinated. Member organizations of the **Emergency Medical Services System (EMSS), including the Wichita Fire Department (WFD), Sedgwick County EMS (SCEMS), the Sedgwick County Fire Department (SCFD) and staff from the Office of the Medical Director (OMD)** joined together to vaccinate individuals in CDC-recommended target groups. More than **1,000 vaccines** were administered to individuals at EMSS clinics.

school-located vaccine clinics (SLVCs)

When the CDC announced recommended target groups, school-age children were a top priority. It was decided that the best way to vaccinate young children was to hold vaccine clinics at the schools. **To accomplish the task of vaccinating thousands of Sedgwick County children,** the Health Department partnered with school districts across the county. *A schedule of clinics was developed from a lottery system.*

The **SLVCs** were successful largely because of the work of hundreds of volunteers and many school nurses. Without a strong working partnership between the Health Department and school districts, vaccinating thousands of students and staff would have been nearly impossible.

- 184 schools participated in the SLVC project
- More than 15,000 students and school staff were vaccinated at SLVCs
- 179 clinics hosted at schools

operations

With the tens of thousands of doses of vaccine administered, came tens of thousands of consent forms. Members of the operations team supervised data entry for the H1N1 process including inputting demographic and immunization data from an estimated **35,000 consent forms each week.** The team also managed a collection point for the **15,000 consent forms** from the school-located vaccine clinics and tallied the vaccine by lot numbers and date of birth of the vaccine recipient. *Members of the operations team spent hours entering H1N1 encounters and worked at the Wichita Mall assisting with client registration.*

2009 programs and encounters (non H1N1 work)

	2007	2008	2009
HIV Screening	2,084	3,082	3,420
Immunizations and Health Screenings	27,185	26,015	27,327
Sexually Transmitted Diseases	3,148	3,843	3,782
Tuberculosis	6,234	6,365	4,742
Breast and Cervical Cancer Screening	807	630	753
Family Planning	4,746	5,260	5,936
Prenatal Care (M&I)	5,676	5,607	5,971
Healthy Babies	6,983	8,553	6,201
Women, Infants, and Children	108,936	121,307	132,212
Children's Dental	1,324	1,232	1,281
Epidemiology	1,654	1,805	2,674
Public Health Emergency Management	6,473	3,275	2,137
Health Education	18,542*	19,609	27,651

*Revised per audit review

2009 BUDGET

Came from these funding sources:

Federal	\$ 4,660,868
State (does not include pass through)	\$ 984,336
User Fees	\$ 1,371,540
Local Taxes	\$ 4,759,666
Other	\$ 72,823
Total	\$11,849,233

2009

board of sedgwick county commissioners

Serving as the Board of Health

- Dave Unruh - 1st District
- Tim Norton - 2nd District
- Karl Peterjohn - 3rd District
- Kelly Parks - 4th District
- Gwen Welshimer - 5th District

health administrative management team

- Claudia Blackburn, RNC, MPH, CPM, Health Director
- Cindy Burbach, RN, DrPH, Health Protection & Promotion
- Bill Farney, MBA, Administrative Services
- Adrienne Byrne-Lutz, MS, Children & Family Health
- Pamela Martin, ARNP, MBA, Clinical Services
- Roderick Harris, MSPH, Center for Health Equity

2009: the year of the pandemic 2009: the year of the pandemic 2009: the year of the pandemic
www.sedgwickcounty.org