

# DSHS, Region 7 Updates for Healthcare Coalition Meetings

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*Updates as of May 1, 2017*

## **Epi Updates**

### **Certification in Infection Control and Prevention (CIC) Training**

HSR7 is planning to host a Certification in Infection Control and Prevention (CIC) certification prep course on May 25-26 in Temple. The Texas Society for Infection Control and Prevention (TSICP) will conduct the 2-day course. All participants will receive a copy of the Certification Study Guide and course power points in addition to a paid scholarship to take the CIC exam upon completion of the course.

Space is limited to 25 participants. If you would like to apply for a space, please fill out and return the attached application to <mailto:Bonnie.Morehead@dshs.texas.gov> by May 22, 2017. Participants will be notified promptly upon confirmation of the course.

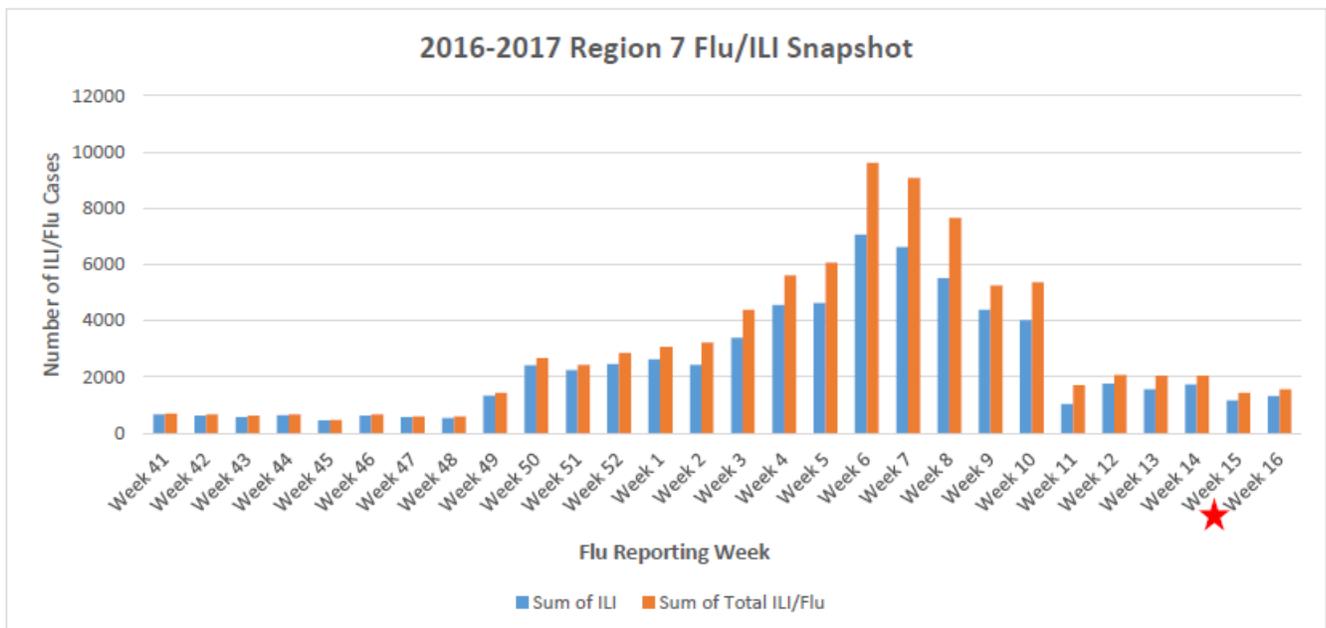
### **Other Epi Updates**

- Slight increase in the number of gastrointestinal virus, most likely norovirus, outbreaks in long-term care facilities around the state. Please report any clusters or outbreaks to the health department. Reporters can even include EMS providers and hospitals that have noticed an increased number of transports or admissions from a particular facility.
- TxS2, the statewide syndromic surveillance system, will start pilot testing in south Texas soon. Data providers that have completed the registration process and have an executed MOU have been asked to complete their internal testing and begin submitting test messages to the system. Several hospitals/hospital systems in Region 7 are at this point in the process.

## **Flu Season**

### **Overall Flu activity in Region 7**

- Flu numbers are continuing to trend downward, but there are still reports of cases and outbreaks of flu around the state so it's still circulating!
- Human Infection with Variant H3N2 Influenza A (H3N2v) Virus -- Texas, April 2017
  - Texas reported the nation's first variant H3N2 (H3N2v) case of the year, in a Texas resident who had contact with swine at an agricultural event about a week before illness began. The case was not hospitalized and has recovered.



### **CHEMPACK Updates:**

CDC recently conducted a drop-shipment sustainment the week of April 25, 2017. Due to a National shortage of Atropine and the expiration date of the stock we had, all of the CHEMPACK containers in HSR 7 do not have Atropine. Please share with response partners so they know this is currently unavailable through CHEMPACK until further notice.

### **Preparedness Updates:**

Health Service Region 7's Preparedness Specialist, Wanda Robinson, is retiring on May 11, 2017. She is excited about starting this new chapter in her life and wanted to share a brief farewell (see attached).

Dear Partners,

As of May 11, 2017 I will be retired from Texas Dept. of State Health Services. It has been an honor and privilege to serve with so many talented, dedicated and professional men and woman over the past 15 years.

While I am retiring from my position with Health Service Region 7, I do plan to make myself available to volunteer for CASPERS and support needs in the realm of CISM or any other public health related emergency where my knowledge, skill and abilities might be needed.

We are the village it takes to keep making the state of Texas great. Thank you for what you do every day to promote preparedness and prevent diseases.

Best Regards,

*Wanda L. Robinson*



# Texas CIC Certification Prep Course

## APPLICATION FOR PARTICIPATION

### CONTACT INFORMATION

Job Title(s):

Applicant Name:

Phone:

E-mail:

Facility Name:

Facility Address:

City:

State:

ZIP Code:

### BACKGROUND INFORMATION/EXPERIENCE

How long have you been an Infection Preventionist?

In what type of healthcare setting do you currently work?

Are you currently CIC certified?

In your facility, how many IPs are CIC Certified?

When do you plan to take the CIC certification exam?

Is your facility in an urban or rural community? Circle one.

Urban    or    Rural

Explain why you should be chosen to participate in this prep course:

### CIC EXAM REQUIREMENTS

Are you accountable for the infection prevention and control activities/program in your setting?

Do you have a post-secondary degree (e.g. associates' or baccalaureate degree) from an accredited academic facility?

Do you have experience in the following:

Preventing and controlling the transmission of infectious agents:

Identification of infectious disease processes:

Surveillance and epidemiologic investigation:

Employee/occupational health:

Management and communication:

Education and research:

Environment of care:

Cleaning, sterilization, disinfection, and asepsis: