



OCTOBER 27, 2009

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

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## **City Health Department Reports First H1N1 Death Supply of vaccine doses is small throughout the state**

The Beaumont Health Department confirmed today that a 5-year-old Jefferson County child has died of complications from the H1N1 virus. The child died Tuesday afternoon in a Houston hospital after being ill for about a month. This is the first reported death of a county resident from H1N1.

"We are saddened to learn about the death of this young child," said Ingrid Holmes, Public Health Director for the City of Beaumont. "Most people who have gotten this strain of flu have had only mild symptoms, but it is our sincere hope that every family is taking precautions against both seasonal and H1N1 flu, so that we can keep infections to a bare minimum this season."

The manufacturer of the H1N1 vaccine, in cooperation with the state of Texas, determines the timing and number of vaccines released to each city's health department, based on the production speed of the drug and the population of the respective cities, Holmes said. The city's health department has received a negligible number of H1N1 vaccines to-date, and has a plan in place to administer doses according to patient risk levels once the vaccine arrives in sufficient amounts.

"Once we receive enough vaccines, the city is ready to distribute them," said Holmes. "In the meantime, if you or your child show symptoms of H1N1, such as fever, cough, sore throat, aches or other symptoms, it is important that you seek medical attention as soon as possible."

For more information on seasonal and H1N1 flu, visit the Texas Department of State Health Services at <http://www.dshs.state.tx.us/txflu/default.shtm>.

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