



# Texas Leverages the LRN to Respond to Ebola in the US

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2015 APHL Annual Meeting



# Ebola Prequel



# Ebola Prequel

## **Ebola Testing Kit**

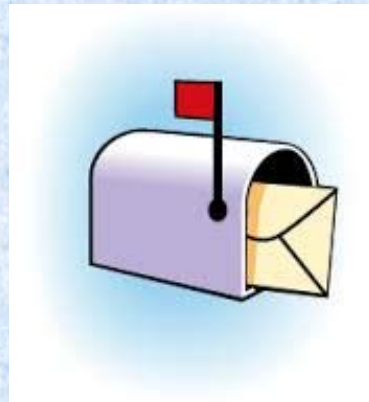
- August 5<sup>th</sup> – DoD granted EUA for Ebola Zaire rRT-PCR test kit
- August 8<sup>th</sup> – Texas DSHS notifies CDC LRN of willingness to accept test kit



# Communications about Ebola

## Email Messages

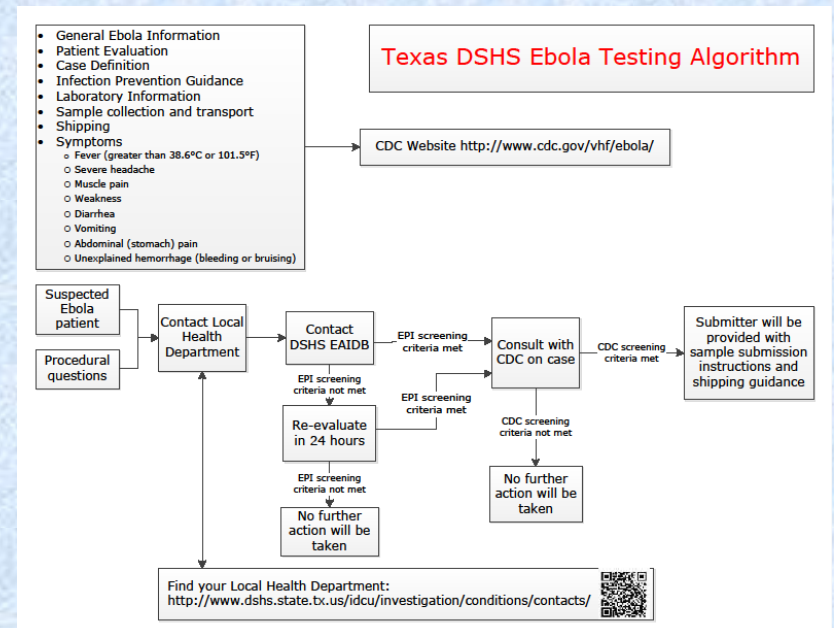
- Lab-wide email to announce that our lab would be receiving a testing kit
- Message to IT Staff to assure them they would not be working in area where testing occurred
- Commissioner sent email to department staff announcing special testing at the lab



# Getting Ready for Ebola

## Planning

- Lab staff multiple times with epidemiologists
- Developed communication procedure and approval algorithm for test requests
- Set up email distribution lists
- Updated phone lists

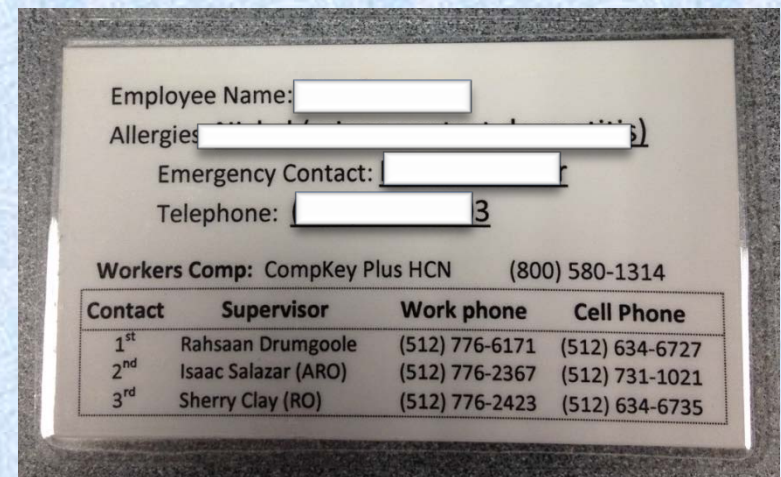
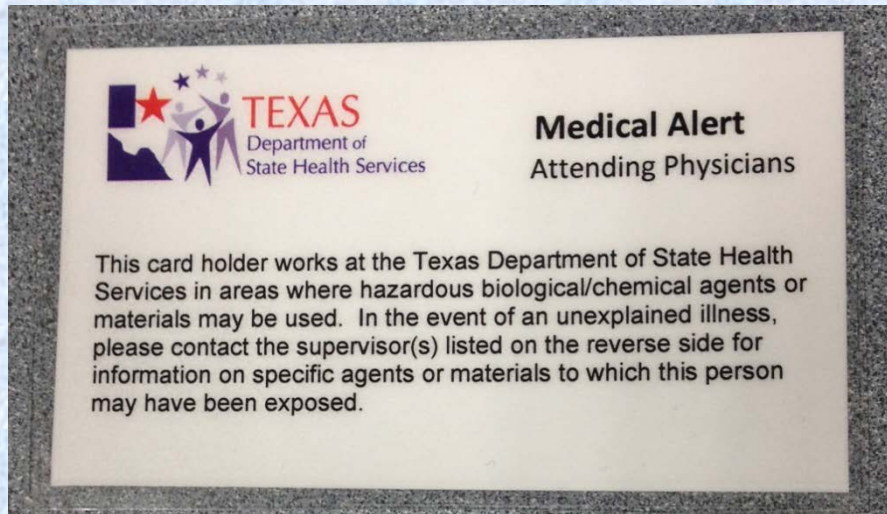




# Getting Ready for Ebola

## Enhanced Medical Surveillance Program

- Medical Alert wallet cards
- Develop tracking logs for twice daily temperature monitoring
- Form for capturing Ebola like symptoms



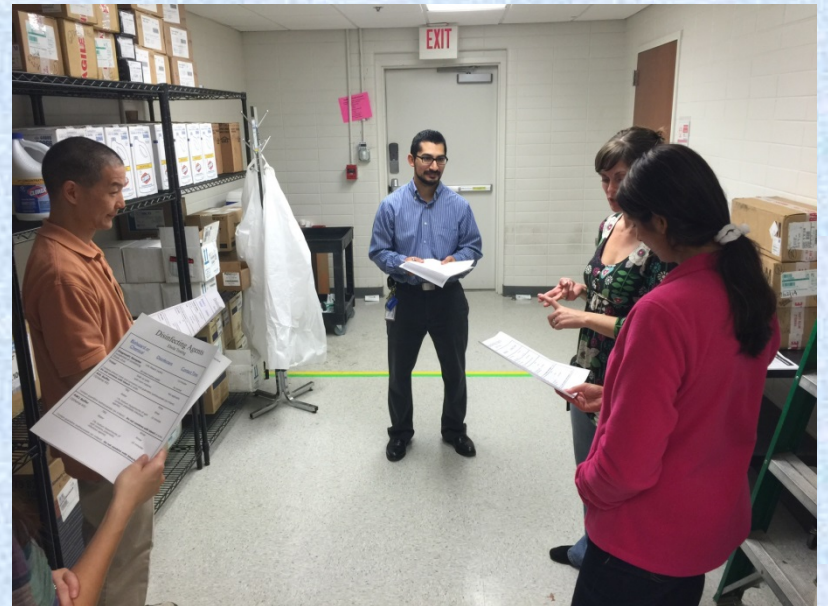
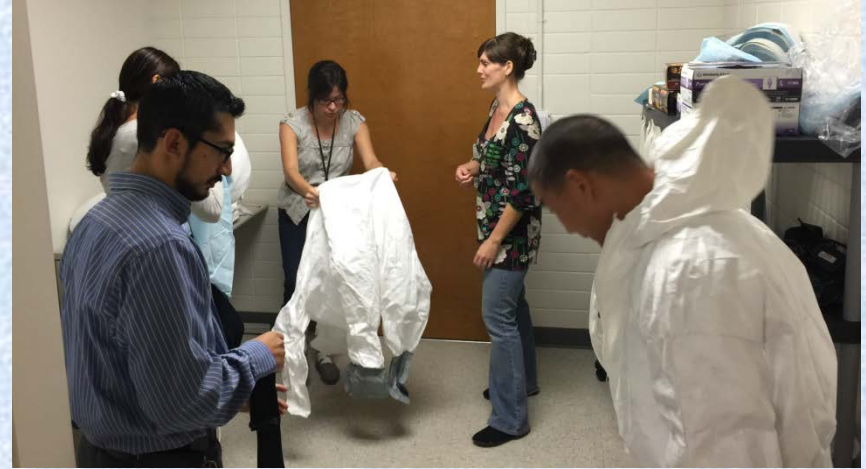


# Testing, Testing, Testing

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Tuesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
		(Sept 30) +	1	2 —	3	4
5	6 —	7	8	9 —	10 —	11 +
12 — —	13 — —	14 + —	15 —	16 — —	17	18 —
19 —	20	21	22	23	24 —	25
26	27	28	29	30	31	(Nov 18) —

# Surge Capacity

- 5 Staff 10.16.14
- Refresher BSL3
- Ebola Safety







# Texas Laboratory Response Network

- Reference level laboratories for FBI and local law enforcement for biothreat specimens
- Train hospital personnel in procedures to refer biothreat specimens to local LRN
- Partner with 1st responders, law enforcement, military
- Annual trainings and conference allows for coordinated responses



# Packaging & Shipping

- Category A packaging and shipping materials were available from the Texas LRN labs
- Texas LRN lab personnel provided guidance on how to package and ship specimens
- Texas LRN lab personnel also served as the courier for specimens
- Provided additional packaging and shipping trainings



# Risk Communication Guidance

- 24/7 phone for Ebola calls
- Providing on-site assistance for how to don and doff PPE
- Provide assistance to hospital labs not sure about how to perform rule out testing for PUI



# PPE Shortage

- One week into testing the nation experienced a PPE Shortage – we had ordered in August
- Manufacturer was low on stock and not filling orders; by October we were running low
- Sent out request for help to Texas LRN labs
- San Antonio and Houston both answered the call providing us with three cases of hoods





# Texas Laboratory Response Network



# Coordination Was the Key

- Provided testing algorithm early to help with any incoming questions
- Communication between LRN lab performing testing and contacts at state level
- Helped ensure that test results were communicated in a timely manner

