

Abilene-Taylor County Public Health District Newsletter

Volume 1, Issue 4
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Your Health Department at Work

4th Quarter - (Oct-Dec)	Lab Services Provided: 3,490
Birth Records Filed: 711	Dental Patients: 0 (no provider until January)
Death Records Filed: 392	Medical Services Provided: 4,045
Immunizations Given: 2,483	Restaurant & Food Related Inspections: 557
WIC Participants Served: 12,927	Nuisance Complaint Investigations: 49

Events & Programs **Dental Special Extended!**



Dr. Jennifer Ezeh and Registered Dental Assistant, Malak Wills

Dr. Ezeh and Malak are already a great team! Their schedule is filling up fast and we have been hearing great feedback from their patients. Their professional knowledge along with their desire to teach and servant hearts have made an impact already. Dr. Ezeh graduated from Texas A&M Baylor College of Dentistry and is a member of the American Dental Association, Texas Dental Association and Seventeenth Dental Society. Her area of expertise is restorative dentistry and oral surgery. She offers a full range of dental services excluding root canals.

The dental special has been extended through the end of March!! That includes a comprehensive exam, x-rays and basic cleaning all for only \$100 (applies to new patients). Appointments are filling up quickly so be sure to call us today to reserve your spot 692-5600.

MESSAGE FROM OUR DIRECTOR

Santos Navarrette, Jr.

The ATCPHD was awarded a DSHS grant to conduct a Clinical and Community Health Bridge Project in our community. The four-year grant will bring over \$600,000 into the community to address obesity and the co-morbidities associated with being overweight. The 2014 County Health Rankings identified Taylor County with an overall overweight percentage of 28% among adults 18 years and older and in 2016 it had risen to 31%. The next County Health Rankings will be published on March 14. We welcome the collaboration with our community partners to assist us in making a reduction in obesity rates in Taylor County within the next 4 years.

SAVE the DATE for our 1st Annual

Public Health Day!

Saturday, April 7

10am-2pm @

MERCY Health Care Center

1902 Shelton

To reserve a booth for your organization, contact Saul Delgado @ 676-6634 ext 220 Saul.Delgado@abilenetx.gov

Healthiest Nation 2030



APRIL 2-8, 2018

#NPHW



Amy Fulcher, TACCHO LEADER award winner 2018

The HEALTH CONNECTION

Employee Spotlight - Melissa Longoria, RN, Public Health Nurse



Q. What is your role at the health department?

A. I am a Public Health Nurse at MERCY who tests and treats sexually transmitted infections. I also track and trend these infections, organize additional care, and provide education on safe practices and prevention of future infections.

Q. What is the most rewarding part of your job?

A. The most rewarding part of my job is that I feel like I am able to help people. I know that probably sounds cliché, but it is true. While working with my patients, I noticed a need for PrEP medication in this area and was able to

get that started at MERCY. PrEP is a medication that, when taken correctly, helps minimize one's risk of contracting HIV. Prior to that, people were having to travel to Fort Worth for this medication. That's what I love about my job, helping others!

Q. What are some fun facts about you?

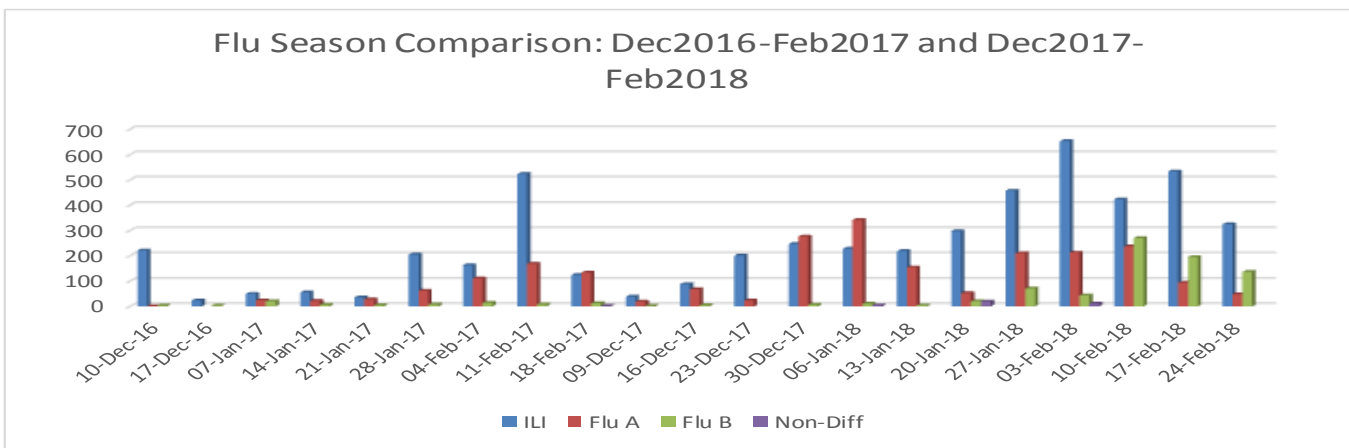
A. I was raised around motorcycles and raced some when I was a child. I am a newly certified personal trainer and am a vegetarian. I love the outdoors, traveling, live music and anything that has to do with animals. I lived in Northern California for 5 years in the early 90s and loved it and I have also been sky diving.

**Flu Impact
Local Statistics**

For many across the nation, the 2017-2018 flu season will be one they will never forget. According to the CDC, as of February 24, 2018, 114 pediatric deaths have been blamed on the influenza virus. An estimated 7 percent of the nation's population have been stricken with varying degrees of flu and over 23,000 have been hospitalized in Texas alone. Abilene has been no differ-

ent from the rest of the nation in flu activity. As indicated by the graph below, provided by our Epidemiologist, Wayne Rose, this year has been a stark contrast from last year. As of February 24, we've had 2529 confirmed cases of flu and 3709 ILIs* with many more unreported cases (flu reporting is voluntary for medical facilities, except pediatric flu deaths, which are required to be reported to the CDC). According to our local City Registrar, Cassie Lee, 23 people have died in Abilene as a result of flu complications. Victims range in age from 39 to 99. Although there

were many reports of the flu vaccine being less effective than expected, medical experts, including our Medical Health Authority, Dr. Peter Norton, agree that getting the flu shot is the best way to prevent the illness and lessen the dangerous and potentially life-threatening complications of flu such as pneumonia and sepsis. It is important that everyone 6 months and older get their flu shot in September to make sure they are better protected throughout the entire flu season. For additional information, visit our web page at www.abilenetx.gov/health.



*ILI: Influenza like illness is defined as fever > 100F, cough and/or sore throat. Non-Differentiated is when a rapid flu test is positive, but the result is not differentiated into a particular strain. Graph pertains to Abilene-Taylor County numbers reported by local medical providers and hospitals.