



WILLIAMSON COUNTY AND CITIES HEALTH DISTRICT

NEWS RELEASE

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Williamson County and Cities Health District Conducts Point of Distribution (POD) Exercise while Providing Free Seasonal Flu Vaccine

October 30, 2009 (Williamson County) –

Williamson County and Cities Health District (WCCHD) conducted a full scale Point of Distribution (POD) exercise at the Williamson County Central Maintenance Facility on Friday, October 23, 2009. This exercise tested WCCHD's plan and ability to conduct high volume mass vaccination.

The POD exercise demonstrated a train-the-trainer concept whereby non-essential government employees and other volunteers can receive just-in-time training to organize and run emergency distribution centers. WCCHD also rolled out a POD orientation presentation for Williamson County employees to familiarize them with the process in addition to taking advantage of the seasonal flu vaccine that was made available for exercise purposes. Approximately 20% of the staffing came from Sun City volunteers who came out to support the exercise and to provide feedback about the training and overall process.

Williamson County Emergency Services Director, John Sneed, and his staff supported the event and insured coordination with the County's "All Hazards Emergency Management Plans" and the Incident Command System. The Williamson County Public Information Officer assisted the exercise while Precinct 3 Constables provided Law Enforcement support and Williamson County EMS personnel were also on hand for any real world emergencies. The Exercise was part of a region-wide Public Health Preparedness exercise provided by the Texas Engineering Extension Service (TEEX) and the Department of State Health Services Public Health Region 7.

For more information about *your public health department* please visit www.wcchd.org.