



Press Release

**Fort Bend County
Health & Human Services**

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For immediate release

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Emergency Preparedness Exercise this Weekend in Fort Bend County

Fort Bend County Health & Human Services will be participating in the Paratus 2019 Strategic National Stockpile full-scale exercise from Thursday, Oct. 24 to Saturday, Oct. 26, in collaboration with the State, Offices of Emergency Management and local health departments across the Houston Metropolitan Area. This exercise provides state and local officials with an opportunity to practice a coordinated response to a public health emergency that requires dispensing life-saving medications to people in Southeast Texas.

Residents may see large trucks accompanied by law enforcement vehicles at public schools and community buildings during the exercise. Stephen F. Austin High School, The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints, and Walgreens, are some of the designated points of dispensing during the exercise in Fort Bend County.

An act of terrorism, infectious disease outbreak or major natural disaster may create a large-scale public health emergency that would require rapid access to large quantities of medicine and other medical supplies. The purpose of the Strategic National Stockpile is to distribute and dispense those items to the largest number of people in the least amount of time. The SNS program maintains large stockpiles around the country so they can be delivered quickly to states and local communities in case of emergency.

Planning, training, and exercising these emergency response plans will preserve and protect the health and lives of the citizens of Texas against a wide range of life-threatening risks.

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