



OFFICE OF THE GOVERNOR

RICK PERRY  
GOVERNOR

May 1, 2009

The Honorable Barack Obama  
President of the United States  
The White House  
1600 Pennsylvania Avenue, NW  
Washington, D.C. 20500

THROUGH: Mr. Gary Jones, Acting Regional Administrator  
Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA), Region VI  
Federal Regional Center  
Denton, Texas 76209

Dear Mr. President:

I am requesting that U.S. Department of Defense laboratory resources in Texas be made available to augment the state's laboratory capacity to address the substantial increase in the volume of sample submissions related to the 2009 H1N1 influenza outbreak.

An essential component of the state's Pandemic Influenza Response Plan is the timely reporting of laboratory results to support key decisions throughout the state. The State of Texas has an extensive laboratory response network; however, the sheer volume of sample submissions has significantly increased the time it takes to determine the probability of H1N1 influenza. This information is essential to containing the virus while awaiting confirmation from the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention.

If you have any further questions, please contact Texas Department of State Health Services Commissioner David Lakey at his office at (512) 458-7375 or on his cell phone at (512) 422-3918.

Sincerely,

A large, stylized handwritten signature of Rick Perry in black ink.  
Rick Perry  
Governor

RP:gep