



Enhance Texas' Immunization Registry for Emergency Preparedness

Defend Texans during a disaster or disease outbreak by improving communication between ImmTrac2 and electronic health records (EHRs).

Maintaining a voluntary, free, shareable vaccination history is critical during a disaster or disease outbreak. It helps ensure individuals receive only the vaccinations they need, when they need them.

- A robust system allows physicians, health departments, and other health professionals 24/7 access to identify what diseases an individual has been vaccinated against.
- An immunization registry keeps records stored safely, confidentially, and conveniently so a patient's physician or health care clinician can access them regardless of location or if a patient switches practices.

Obstacles to Optimal ImmTrac2 Function

- Texas' six consent types are not standard within common EHRs. This prevents an EHR from transferring patient consent and immunization data into ImmTrac2.
- The premature deletion of records of vaccinations administered during a disaster means a clinician may not know if patients have received necessary vaccinations. A fully functioning, modernized registry ensures current immunization records are stored securely in one place for easy access during an emergency.
- Knowing the vaccination status of first responders is critical to ensure they receive appropriate treatment in an emergency or disaster. Whether someone is employed as a first responder at the time of consenting for inclusion in the registry or becomes so after consenting, ImmTrac2 needs to be able to identify a first responder's role and what vaccines they and their family may need.

The Texas Public Health Coalition Recommends:

- 1. Streamline consent** to a simple "yes or no" to ensure bi-directional interoperability between ImmTrac2 and EHRs; and create a user-friendly method for Texans to acknowledge and confirm consent.
- 2. Ensure ImmTrac2 data are bidirectional and interoperable** with school health systems and consider a patient-facing portal.
- 3. Use existing state medical record practices** to align disaster records retention with the standard seven-year retention as required by state law.
- 4. Require the Texas Department of State Health Services (DSHS) to send at least two notifications about the impending deletion of a person's disaster immunization record.** This mirrors the DSHS practice for aging-out adolescents who must re-consent for childhood records retention once they reach adulthood.
- 5. Remove the need for a patient to be identified as a first responder** or the family of a first responder at the time of consent into ImmTrac2. Instead, DSHS should verify a person's vaccination status to an employer if the first responder consents to disclosure.



The Texas Public Health Coalition is a coalition of health professional organizations and health-focused organizations dedicated to disease prevention and health promotion.

401 W. 15th Street, Austin, Texas 78701 ■ www.texmed.org/PublicHealthCoalition ■ knowledge@texmed.org

MEMBERS

ALS Association	Society for Adolescent Health and Medicine	Texas Health Institute
Alzheimer's Association	Texas Academy of Family Physicians	Texas Hospital Association
American Cancer Society, Cancer Action Network	Texas Academy of Nutrition and Dietetics	Texas Medical Association
American Heart Association	Texas Academy of Physician Assistants	Texas Nurses Association
American Lung Association	Texas Association of City & County Health Officials	Texas Osteopathic Medical Association
Children at Risk	Texas Association of Community Health Centers	Texas Pediatric Society
Children's Hospital Association of Texas	Texas Chapter of the American College of Physicians Services	Texas Physicians for Social Responsibility
Harris County Public Health	Texas Dental Association	Texas Renal Coalition
Healthier Texas		Texas School Nurses Organization
March of Dimes		The Immunization Partnership
Methodist Healthcare Ministries		United Ways of Texas

RESOURCES

BEXAR COUNTY MEDICAL SOCIETY
CANCER PREVENTION AND RESEARCH
INSTITUTE OF TEXAS
CPAN & TCHAT
UT MD ANDERSON CANCER CENTER

MICHAEL & SUSAN DELL CENTER FOR
HEALTHY LIVING
PARTNERSHIP FOR A HEALTHY TEXAS
TEXAS DEPARTMENT OF
STATE HEALTH SERVICES

TEXAS PUBLIC HEALTH ASSOCIATION
TEXAS TOBACCO CONTROL COALITION
TEXAS VETERINARY MEDICAL
ASSOCIATION
TRAVIS COUNTY MEDICAL SOCIETY

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