Immunizations are safe, effective, and save lives. They defend our families, community, and economy from infectious diseases.

Vaccine-preventable disease outbreaks are costly to our state and would further burden Texas’ public health systems already heavily involved in the COVID-19 response.

- **VACCINE EXEMPTIONS ARE ON THE RISE.**
  Texas allowed conscientious vaccine exemptions beginning in 2003. These exemptions have tripled since 2010-11.¹

- **SOME STUDENTS ARE MISSING REQUIRED SHOTS.**
  Some non-exempt students are still going to school without shots. Schools are inconsistently enforcing Texas’ “no shots, no school” law, which requires a school to exclude students from attendance if they are missing one or more required vaccinations and don’t receive them as fast as medically feasible.

- **KIDS FELL BEHIND ON VACCINES DURING COVID-19.**
  As a result of COVID-19, fewer parents took their children to well-child checks, preventing their child from staying on schedule with necessary vaccinations. The Texas Vaccines for Children program provides vaccines for roughly half of children in Texas. According to the Texas Department of State Health Services (DSHS), the number of Texas Vaccines for Children doses administered in April 2020 decreased substantially (-43%) compared to the same time in 2019. Rates began to rebound somewhat in May (-24%) and June (-14%) – but remain well below 2019 levels.²

- **POVERTY AND LACK OF HEALTH INSURANCE CONTRIBUTE TO MISSING VACCINATIONS.** According to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, children who are uninsured and living below poverty level are most likely to be missing doses of recommended vaccines by their second birthday. The prevalence of being completely unvaccinated by age 2 is highest among uninsured children (4.1%), followed by Medicaid (1.3%), and privately insured (0.8%).³

¹ Texas Department of State Health Services. (2020). Annual Survey of Immunization Status, 2010-2020. Available at: https://www.dshs.texas.gov/immunize/coverage/schools/
² Texas Department of State Health Services. (Sep. 2020). Impacts of COVID-19 on TVFC Vaccine Administration. Available at: https://www.dshs.texas.gov/immunize/docs/COVID19impactTVFC.pdf
The Texas Public Health Coalition is a coalition of health professional organizations and health-focused organizations dedicated to disease prevention and health promotion.

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MEMBERS

Alzheimer’s Association
American Heart Association
Blue Cross Blue Shield of Texas
Children’s Hospital Association of Texas
The Cooper Institute
Harris County Public Health
The Immunization Partnership
It’s Time Texas
March of Dimes
Methodist Healthcare Ministries
Texas Academy of Family Physicians
Texas Academy of Nutrition and Dietetics
Texas Academy of Physician Assistants
Texas Association of City & County Health Officials
Texas Association of Community Health Centers
Texas Chapter of the American College of Physicians Services
Texas eHealth Alliance
Texas Health Institute
Texas Hospital Association
Texas Medical Association
Texas Nurses Association
Texas Oral Health Coalition, Inc.
Texas Osteopathic Medical Association
Texas Pediatric Society
Texas Physicians for Social Responsibility
Texas Public Health Association
Texas Renal Coalition
Texas School Nurses Organization
Texas State Alliance of YMCAs
United Ways of Texas

RESOURCES

CANCER PREVENTION AND RESEARCH INSTITUTE OF TEXAS  MICHAEL AND SUSAN DELL CENTER FOR HEALTHY LIVING  TEXAS DEPARTMENT OF STATE HEALTH SERVICES
MD ANDERSON CANCER CENTER  PARTNERSHIP FOR A HEALTHY TEXAS