



Modernize Texas' Immunization Registry

The Texas Legislature can help defend Texans during a disaster or disease outbreak by improving communication between ImmTrac2 and electronic health records (EHRs).

An immunization registry 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.

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 physician doesn't know if patients already have the vaccinations they need. A fully functioning, modernized registry ensures current immunization records are stored securely in one place for easy access during an emergency.
- If first responders change employment or become a first responder post-consent, ImmTrac2 may not accurately identify them when a disaster strikes. Knowing the vaccination status of first responders is critical to ensure they and their family receive appropriate treatment in an emergency or disaster.

The Texas Public Health Coalition Recommends:

- 1. Make consent a simple "yes or no"** to ensure bi-directional interoperability between ImmTrac2 and EHRs, and create a user-friendly method for Texans to withdraw consent.
- 2. Use existing state medical record practices to align disaster records retention with the standard seven-year retention as required by state law.**
- 3. Require 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.
- 4. 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, the Texas Department of State Health Services (DSHS) will verify a person's vaccination status to an employer if the first responder consents to disclosure and the employer affirms current employment status.



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

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American Heart Association	Texas Chapter of the American College of Physicians Services
American Lung Association	Texas Dental Association
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Children's Hospital Association of Texas	Texas Health Institute
The Cooper Institute	Texas Hospital Association
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Texas Academy of Physician Assistants	Texas School Nurses Organization
Texas Association of City & County Health Officials	Texas Society for Adolescent Health and Medicine
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RESOURCES

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MD ANDERSON CANCER CENTER

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TEXAS DEPARTMENT OF STATE HEALTH SERVICES
TEXAS PUBLIC HEALTH ASSOCIATION