

Communicable Disease Team

If this is a health emergency, call 911 immediately.

What we do:

To reduce the spread and effects of communicable diseases, the Hays County Health Department's Communicable Disease Team, composed of the Epidemiologist and the TB/Communicable Disease Nurses respond to all communicable disease reports. The team provides a reporting and investigation mechanism that coordinates with local, regional, state, and national health organizations.

Communicable disease refers to a variety of illnesses or adverse health outcomes that may be transmitted by people, vectors or from the environment. Some examples of transmission include person to person contact (ex: sneezing, coughing, blood transfer, etc.) and those spread by contaminated food, water, animals, and vectors; such as rabies, West Nile virus, Lyme Disease, typhus, and salmonella. Health care practitioners in the epidemiology branch of medicine study the causes, distribution, and control of communicable diseases to help protect populations.

The Communicable Disease Team provides the following services:

- Collection of reports, investigation, and follow-up of any reportable communicable disease to determine the possible origin and prevent further spread of the disease
- Assists law enforcement investigations into suspected cases of terrorism by use of infectious agents
- Provides information for the general public on communicable disease origin, prevention, and treatment
- Assists daycares and schools in prevention, control, and monitoring of communicable diseases
- Responds to and works closely with the Texas Department of State Health Services and the U.S. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention in reporting, investigating, and follow-up of communicable diseases
- Assistance with referral to appropriate medical services

In Hays County, the Communicable Disease Team is especially on the lookout for:

- Chickenpox
- Foodborne and Waterborne Diseases (Salmonella/Shigella/Campylobacter/E. coli)
- Hepatitis (A, B, C, D, & E)
- Invasive Meningitis
- Measles/Mumps/Rubella
- Pertussis (Whooping Cough)
- Rabies
- Tuberculosis
- STD's (Chlamydia, gonorrhea, HIV, Syphilis)

and several more diseases which can be found [here](#).
<http://www.dshs.state.tx.us/idcu/investigation/conditions>

Hays County's Communicable Disease Team

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For more information, the [Texas Department of State Health Services](#) website has several resources readily available or you can visit the [Center for Disease Control and Prevention](#) website.