



HAYS COUNTY LOCAL HEALTH DEPARTMENT

NEWSLETTER

ISSUE FOUR | JUNE 2023

1 HCLHD Summer
Health Fair

2 Events

3 New Manager

5 Epi Insights

6 Recognition

7 HCLHD Contact
List

Contents

HCLHD invites residents to Summer Health Fair

The Hays County Local Health Department (HCLHD) is gearing up to provide free preventative healthcare services to the community.

The Hays County Local Health Department (HCLHD) invites residents to take control of their health. The Summer Health Fair on June 10 at Dripping Springs Ranch Park provides an opportunity to do just that.

Austin Baier, Community Outreach Specialist for the HCLHD, said medical professionals will be at the fair to provide COVID-19 vaccinations, vision screenings, STI testing, and more for people of all ages. Services will be available to the public at no cost.

The Summer Health Fair takes place from 9 a.m.-2 p.m. at Dripping Springs Ranch Park, located at 1042 Event Center Drive, Dripping Springs.

Vendors for the fair include CommuniCare, Community Action, and the Lion's Club, among others. Attendees will have the chance to win door prizes, including gift cards to local restaurants.

Baier said that entertainment includes music and carnival games.

CONTACT US

LOCALHEALTHHECE@CO.HAYS.TX.US

Events this month

June 1: Emergency Preparedness Fair | 7 - 8:30 pm | Highpointe Amenities Center in Dripping Springs

June 2: Summer Reading Kick-Off | 5:30 - 7:30 pm | Buda City Park

June 3: Healthy Hays Discussion Series: Intro to the HCLHD | 3 - 6 pm | Sententia Vera Cultural Hub in Dripping Springs

June 10: HCLHD Summer Health Fair | 9 am - 2 pm | Dripping Springs Ranch Park

June 13: Healthy Hays Discussion Series: Indigent Care | 6 - 8 pm | Barnabas Connection in Wimberley

June 18: Outdoor Safety Pop-Up Event | 12 - 3 pm | Rio Vista Park in San Marcos

June 22: Community Meet & Greet: Hosted by Sandra Bryant, Justice of the Peace Precinct 5 | 9:30 am - 2:30 pm | 500 Jack C. Hays Trail, Lions Club Room, Buda TX 78610

Hays County Local Health Department Presents

Summer Health Fair

Free Admission

**June 10th
9am to 2pm**

Dripping Springs

Ranch Park & Event Center

1042 Event Center Dr, Dripping Springs, TX 78620

**Free Services, Resources,
and Entertainment**

**Follow us on Facebook for further
details at Hays County Local
Health Department**



**Questions? Contact us at
localhealth@co.hays.tx.us**

HCLHD HIRES NEW MANAGER

Matthew Gonzales, MHA

In April 2023, Margie Rodriguez, previous Local Health Department Clinic Manager, retired after 30 years of service to the HCLHD. After a round of interviews, Matthew Gonzales, MHA, was promoted to the manager position after serving as the Health Equity and Community Engagement Program Manager for the past year and a half. Gonzales is excited for what he will accomplish in this new position. Below, he answers some questions regarding the health department and being manager.



Q: Congratulations on your promotion, Matthew! How do you feel about transitioning from the Health Equity and Community Engagement Program Manager to the Local Health Department Manager?

A: I feel grateful! The new role impacts the community far more than my previous role. I have received a lot of great feedback about my promotion by our community leaders and members. I appreciate the support dearly as I know that I am now responsible for the community and department at a higher level than I previously was.

Q: As the new manager, what is your biggest goal for the health department?

A: My number one goal for the health department is to participate in the Public Health Accreditation Boards (PHAB) Pathways Recognition program. This program can facilitate readiness for health departments who intend on becoming accredited. This recognition and accreditation are voluntary but recognizes a public health department's performance against national standards. My hope is that by meeting national standards our capacity to perform as a health department will improve.

HCLHD HIRES NEW MANAGER

Matthew Gonzales, MHA

Q: What do you see as the key challenges and opportunities facing the health department in the current healthcare landscape? How do you plan to address those challenges and leverage the opportunities?

A: Our department faces a multitude of challenges to address the current healthcare landscape. The cost of healthcare, increasing chronic diseases, health disparities amongst different populations, and the increased need to implement new technologies and data management systems.

To address these issues, I hope to utilize evidence-based public health strategies, review current technological improvements within the public health field to implement them within the department, promote preventative care programs, and foster partnerships with community organizations and healthcare providers.

Q: Tell us about your experience at Texas State University. How has your education and academic background prepared you for this leadership position? Are there any specific skills or knowledge areas that you believe are particularly relevant?

A: During my time at Texas State University, I obtained a Bachelor's in Public Administration and a Master's in Healthcare Administration. As a peer mentor, I developed communication and mentoring skills. In Student Government, I gained experience in teamwork, project management, and advocacy.

Being a member of the Student Foundation enhanced my professionalism and relationship-building abilities. My education and involvement in leadership positions have equipped me with effective communication, strategic planning, collaboration, and representation skills.

EPI INSIGHTS

Disease Surveillance

Surveillance of disease is foundational to public health. Case surveillance begins with local health agencies. Hays County Local Health Department epidemiologists are continuously monitoring disease in our county. They collect data to confirm diagnoses of certain health conditions so that they know how often certain diseases occur in our area. This information helps them to monitor health trends, identify potential disease outbreaks, prevent transmission, and evaluate the effectiveness of control measures.

Who is required to report?

Chapter 97, Title 25 of the Texas Administrative Code states that health care providers, hospitals, laboratories, schools (public and private), daycares, blood banks and others are required to report suspected or confirmed cases of certain diseases and conditions.

What needs to be reported to the health department?

The 2023 list of notifiable conditions can be found on the Texas Department of State Health Services website. The list includes 89 diseases and conditions as well as the timeline for reporting each one. In addition to the conditions listed, any outbreaks, exotic diseases, and unusual group expressions of disease must be reported immediately. When making a report, please include disease, date of onset, method of diagnosis and patient demographics as well as the name and contact information of the reporting party.

How to report:

Report notifiable conditions directly to the Hays County Local Health Department. This can be done by calling the epidemiologists (512-393-5520), by faxing a completed disease report form (512-393-5530), or reporting online on the Hays County Local Health Department website.

Right: HCLHD Community Outreach Specialist Austin Baier at an outdoor safety pop-up event at Sewell Park. The HCLHD gave out cold bottled water and informed the community on how to stay safe outside during the summer.



Above: Join us in celebrating Sylvia Rodriguez's remarkable 29 years of dedication to the Hays County Local Health Department! As an Indigent Healthcare Program Specialist, Sylvia has played a crucial role in providing essential care to our community. Today, we honor her incredible commitment and wish her a joy-filled retirement!



Above: HCLHD Manager Matthew Conzales addresses the crowd at a Community Fentanyl Awareness Event in Kyle. Below: HCLHD staff at the Wimberley Strong Health Fair.



Follow us on Facebook to stay updated!
Hays County Local Health Department

CONTACT LIST

**Tammy Crumley - Director of
Countywide Operations**

512-878-6673

tammy.crumley@co.hays.tx.us

**Matthew Gonzales, MHA - Local
Health Department Manager**

512-214-5918

matthew.gonzales@co.hays.tx.us

Elsira DeLeon - IMMTRAC2 Specialist

512-393-5575

elsira.deleon@co.hays.tx.us

**Amy Wolf, BSN, RN, CVRN-BC -
TB/Communicable Disease**

Coordinator

512-393-5569

amy.wolf@co.hays.tx.us

**Josie Gonzales - IMMTRAC2
Specialist**

512-393-5574

josie.gonzales@co.hays.tx.us

**Amelia Flores - Texas Vaccines for
Children (TVFC) Manager**

512-393-5539

amelia.flores@co.hays.tx.us

**Juli Barksdale, MPH -
Epidemiologist**

512-393-5534

juli.barksdale@co.hays.tx.us

**Austin Baier - Community Outreach
Specialist**

512-757-4404

austin.baier@co.hays.tx.us

Ian Harris - Epidemiologist

512-393-5524

ian.harris@co.hays.tx.us

**Emily McCabe - Community Outreach
Specialist**

512-618-7594

emily.mccabe@co.hays.tx.us

**Michelle Villegas - Emergency
Preparedness Coordinator**

512-393-7721

michelle.villegas@co.hays.tx.us

Hays County Local Health Department Presents

Summer Health Fair

Free Admission

**June 10th
9am to 2pm**

Dripping Springs

Ranch Park & Event Center

1042 Event Center Dr, Dripping Springs, TX 78620

Free Services, Resources, and Entertainment

**Vision Screenings
STI/HIV Screenings
COVID-19 Vaccines
Community Resources**

**Crafts, Games, and Activities
Hays County Sheriff's Dept.
North Hays County
EMS & Fire Rescue**

Follow us on Facebook for further details at Hays County Local Health Department



Questions? Contact us at localhealth@co.hays.tx.us



HAYS COUNTY LOCAL
HEALTH DEPARTMENT

A stylized illustration of a medical syringe with a green plunger and a blue shield with a white checkmark, positioned to the left of the main title.

BACK TO SCHOOL FAIR

SATURDAY, **5** AT THE HAYS COUNTY LOCAL
AUGUST HEALTH DEPARTMENT

SIGN UP TODAY TO SECURE YOUR SPOT AS A VENDOR!

Every year, we invite Hays County residents to our health department to get their back-to-school vaccinations. This year, we want the whole community to be involved! Sign your organization up to be a vendor to share your resources with families of Hays County during our Back-To-School Fair.



SCAN QR CODE TO REGISTER


Contact Emily McCabe at 512-618-7594
or emily.mccabe@co.hays.tx.us with
any questions.



Discussion Series



For our 2023 Healthy Hays Discussion series, we want to bring the discussions to you and your organization! We are opening our program to the public to request educational events on various health topics.



During the 2022 series, we held **seven** events on **five** different topics in **three** different languages.

Water Safety

Immunization and Vaccines

Hispanic/Latino Health - Diet

Health Disparities in Deaf and Hard of Hearing Communities

New Parents Preparedness

If you or your organization would like us to plan a health forum or presentation, please contact us.

If you have any questions or would like more information about the Healthy Hays Discussion series, please contact us at localhealthhece@co.hays.tx.us.

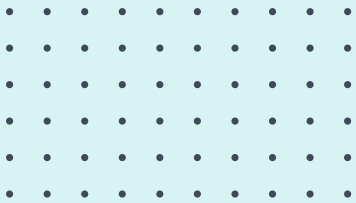
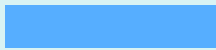


HAYS COUNTY
LOCAL HEALTH
DEPARTMENT



**Our
Office
is**

Moving
to a New Location



**101 Thermon Drive
San Marcos, TX
78666**



**TB and Indigent services will
continue at 401-A Broadway
San Marcos, TX 78666
until August 2023.**



**Follow us on Facebook to
stay up-to-date on our
move!**

**Contact Matthew Gonzales at
Matthew.Gonzales@co.hays.tx.us for more
information.**