



## HAYS COUNTY LOCAL HEALTH DEPARTMENT

# NEWSLETTER

ISSUE SEVEN | SEPTEMBER 2023

### Contents

- 1 HCLHD New Building
- 2 Events
- 3 IMMTRAC2
- 5 COVID Corner
- 7 Epi Insights
- 9 Recognition
- 10 HCLHD Contact List

## HCLHD to hold Emergency Preparedness event

Barnabas Connection will host the Hays County Local Health Department (HCLHD) to discuss how to prepare for when disaster strikes.

The Hays County Local Health Department (HCLHD) will hold the next part of their Healthy Hays Discussion Series on Sept. 19.

"We've experienced multiple floods and freezes in recent years, which underscores the importance of being vigilant and well-prepared for such events," said Hays County Local Health Department Manager Matthew Gonzales.

The presentation will be given in English from 6:15 p.m. to 6:45 p.m. and in Spanish from 7:00 p.m. to 7:45 p.m. Snacks and drinks will be available for attendees.

This will be the fourth Healthy Hays discussion event hosted at Barnabas Connection. The two organizations are working together to inform Hays County residents on how to live more healthy, prepared lives.

Barnabas Connection is located at 101 W Spoke Hill Drive, Wimberley, TX 78676.

"Our Public Health Emergency Preparedness Coordinator, Michelle Villegas, will be presenting," Gonzales said. "She is very passionate about the topic and is excited to help Hays County citizens be more prepared."

# Events this month

**September 9:** Hays County Annual Emergency Preparedness Fair | 10 am - 2 pm | Hays CISD Performing Arts Center in Kyle

**September 9:** SMTX Pride Festival | 10 am - 1 pm | Downtown San Marcos

**September 16:** Hispanic Heritage Event | 11 am - 3 pm | Hays County Historic Courthouse in San Marcos

**September 19:** Discussion Series: Emergency Preparedness | 6 pm - 8 pm | Barnabas Connection in Wimberley

**September 22:** Party in Your Park | 5 - 8 pm | San Marcos City Park

**October 19:** Discussion Series: Mental Health | 6 pm - 8 pm | Barnabas Connection in Wimberley

HAYS COUNTY LOCAL HEALTH DEPARTMENT

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VACCINATE**

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**Hays County Local Health Department**

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Following

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# IMMTRAC2

Texas Immunization Registry, which is commonly referred to as IMMTRAC (ImmTrac2) is a secure and confidential database that stores immunization information for residents of Texas. It is a program managed by the Texas Department of State Health Services (DSHS).

The main purpose of ImmTrac2 is to maintain electronic records of immunizations given to individuals, both children and adults, in the state of Texas. Healthcare providers, such as doctors, nurses, and clinics, use ImmTrac2 to input and access immunization records for their patients. This system helps ensure that individuals receive the appropriate vaccinations and that their vaccination history is readily available to authorized healthcare providers.



## Texas Immunization Registry (ImmTrac2) Adult Consent Form



Did you know that in 2005, House Bill 1921 required that all healthcare providers and payors must report to ImmTrac2 all vaccines given to children under 18 years old? Parents can grant consent to participate in the registry or can request exclusion from the registry. You can provide your immunization records to the local health department or to ImmTrac2 to have your records permanently recorded in the system.

Did you know that your COVID-19 vaccines are "disaster-consented"? The state must keep disaster related vaccine records for 5 years. After 5 years these records are purged from the system. That means if you do not consent into ImmTrac2, your records could be lost. To consent to have your or your children's vaccines in the system, you can use the applications attached and send them by mail to the local health department at 101 Thermon Drive, San Marcos, Texas 78666.

# IMMTRAC2

Immunization registries, such as the Texas Immunization Registry (IMMTRAC2), serve several important purposes in public health and healthcare management:

- **Accurate Record Keeping:** Immunization registries help maintain accurate and up-to-date records of individuals' vaccination histories. This ensures that healthcare providers have access to reliable information about a patient's immunization status.
- **Vaccine Management:** Registries assist healthcare providers in managing vaccine inventories and scheduling immunization appointments. This helps reduce vaccine wastage and ensures that vaccines are available when needed.
- **Public Health Surveillance:** Immunization registries play a crucial role in public health surveillance. By tracking immunization rates at the community and population levels, health authorities can identify areas with low vaccination rates or pockets of underimmunized individuals. This information is essential for developing targeted interventions to prevent disease outbreaks.

- **Outbreak Response:** During disease outbreaks, registries can quickly identify individuals who are susceptible to the disease and may need immediate vaccination or other preventive measures. This helps contain outbreaks and prevent their spread.
- **Reducing Duplication and Errors:** Electronic registries can reduce duplication of vaccines and errors in immunization records. They help prevent unnecessary revaccination and ensure that individuals receive the appropriate vaccines according to their age and medical history.
- **Emergency Preparedness:** Registries are valuable tools for emergency preparedness and response. During public health emergencies, such as pandemics or bioterrorism threats, they can help authorities quickly identify and reach out to individuals who may need specific vaccines or medical interventions.



# COVID CORNER

## COVID-19 Update

COVID-19 continues to be disruptive in Hays County and across the United States. We are currently seeing very high levels of COVID in the community.

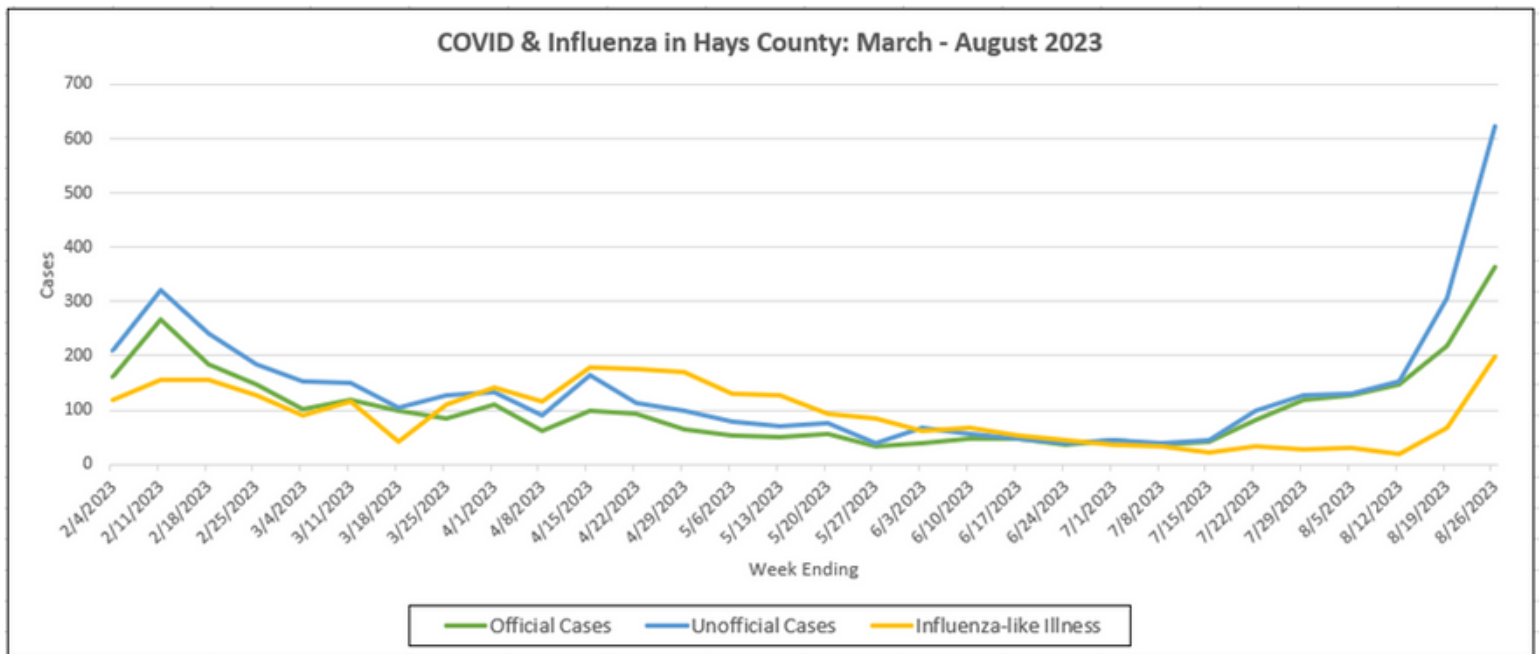
What you can do to protect yourself from COVID-19:

- Wear a high-quality mask (N95, KN95 or KF94) in crowded indoor settings, especially in healthcare facilities and around vulnerable populations.
- Stay home if you are sick. Do not rush to end your isolation if you have COVID. Early evidence suggests that getting plenty of rest while sick is the best way to minimize your chances of long-term effects from a COVID infection.
- COVID is spread primarily through the air. To reduce your chances of exposure, improve indoor air quality through ventilation (open windows) and filtration (HEPA filters or a Corsi-Rosenthal box).
- Practice overall good health habits—wash your hands, exercise, eat healthy foods, and get adequate rest. These practices all strengthen your immune system and lower your chances of getting sick.



# COVID CORNER

## COVID-19 Update



## Graph & Data Explanation

**Official Cases:** this data represents the number of cases that are reported to the health department from medical facilities. Because many people do not visit a medical facility for diagnosis, we know that this number is an undercount of true case prevalence.

**Unofficial Cases:** this data is comprised of the official case numbers, in addition to self-reported home tests and reports from a variety of local facilities such as daycares, schools, residential living facilities, and others.

**Influenza-like Illness:** this data is collected from numerous sources and is comprised of positive flu cases as well as influenza-like illness that may not have a positive test for flu. This category may be inadvertently catching undiagnosed COVID cases in addition to influenza cases.

# EPI INSIGHTS

## Rabies

Rabies is a viral disease that is virtually 100% fatal once symptoms appear. It can be prevented by a safe and effective vaccine. Rabies can be spread to people if they are scratched or bitten by an infected animal. In Hays County, rabies is most often found in foxes and bats. Other rabies carriers in Texas include skunks, racoons, dogs, and cats.

Rabies is spread through the saliva of an infected animal when the animal bites another animal or person. Rabies can also be spread through non-bite exposures, such as scratches or open wounds that are exposed to saliva from a rabid animal—although this mode of transmission is extremely rare. Infected animals can only transmit rabies when they are symptomatic. Any animal infected will die 7 to 10 days after the initial symptoms of rabies begins.

Initial signs of rabies in animals may include fearfulness, restlessness, changes in appetite, vomiting, diarrhea, enlargement of the pupils, hypersensitivity to light and sound, and excessive salivation. Animals often have behavioral changes and may become unusually aggressive. Nocturnal animals may appear in the daytime.

If you are bitten or scratched, or have an open wound that saliva could enter, by an unvaccinated animal:

- Thoroughly wash the wound with soap and water for at least 15 minutes.
- Contact your healthcare provider as soon as possible to assess your risk of rabies and other infections.
- You may need to get a vaccine to prevent rabies.

# EPI INSIGHTS

## Rabies Vaccination in Hays County

If you need a rabies vaccine after a potential exposure, you will need to go to one of the 3 hospital emergency rooms in Hays County (Christus in San Marcos, Seton in Kyle, or BSW in Buda). In Hays County, emergency rooms are the only places that have the appropriate postexposure prophylaxis (PEP). Following an exposure, you will need a dose of human rabies immune globulin (HRIG) and the four-dose series of the rabies vaccine. The rabies vaccine is given on the day of exposure (or as soon as possible), and days 3, 7, and 14.

Pre-exposure prophylaxis (PrEP) is recommended for people in certain high-risk occupations (such as veterinarians and animal control officers). PrEP is a two-dose series. Hays County Health Department does not currently provide the rabies vaccine. At this time, the San Marcos Walgreens (639 Hopkins St., San Marcos) is the only pharmacy to regularly carry the rabies vaccine. Call ahead for an appointment.

### Have a topic in mind that you'd like us to cover?

Send us an email at **[HCLHDOutreach@co.hays.tx.us](mailto:HCLHDOutreach@co.hays.tx.us)** with any requests or recommendations of what you'd like to see in the newsletter.

If your organization provides a service that you think is beneficial to Hays County citizens, let us know! We would love to feature you in our next issue and get the word out about what amazing things you are doing.



Right: HCLHD Vaccines Coordinator, Amelia Flores, being recognized for 15 years of service to Hays County.



Above: Staff doing HCLHD outreach at Movies in the Park. Below: Addyson Curry being recognized for her completion of the internship program.



Above: New San Marcos bus stop outside the HCLHD. Below: Hays County Commissioners Court recognized August as National Immunization Month.



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

# CONTACT LIST

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HCLHD PRESENTS



# EMERGENCY PREPAREDNESS

**Don't be caught  
unprepared this  
fall!**

Come listen to HCLHD Emergency Health Preparedness Coordinator Michelle Villegas as she presents on how to prepare for autumn floods and winter freezes.



**SEPTEMBER 19, 2023**

## Time



ENGLISH: 6:15 - 6:45 PM

SPANISH: 7:00 - 7:45 PM

## Location



101 W Spoke Hill Dr.,  
Wimberley, TX 78676




For more information: 512-393-5520 | [HCLHDOutreach@co.hays.tx.us](mailto:HCLHDOutreach@co.hays.tx.us)

# 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.

A woman with long brown hair, wearing a light-colored sleeveless dress, is seen from the back, standing at a podium and gesturing with her hands while speaking into a microphone. The background is slightly blurred, showing an indoor setting with large windows.

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 [HCLHDOutreach@co.hays.tx.us](mailto:HCLHDOutreach@co.hays.tx.us).

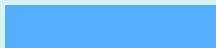




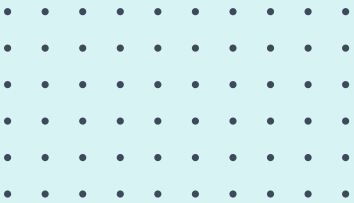
HAYS COUNTY  
LOCAL HEALTH  
DEPARTMENT



Our  
Office  
Has



Moved  
to a New Location



101 Thermon Drive  
San Marcos, TX  
78666





Texas Department of State  
Health Services

# Texas Immunization Registry (ImmTrac2) Adult Consent Form



First Name \_\_\_\_\_ Middle Name \_\_\_\_\_ Last Name \_\_\_\_\_  
Date of Birth (mm/dd/yyyy) \_\_\_\_\_ Gender ☐ Male - \_\_\_\_\_ - \_\_\_\_\_  
Female Telephone \_\_\_\_\_ Email address \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_ Apartment # / Building # \_\_\_\_\_

City \_\_\_\_\_ State \_\_\_\_\_ Zip Code \_\_\_\_\_ County \_\_\_\_\_

Mother's First Name \_\_\_\_\_ Mother's Maiden Name \_\_\_\_\_

Race (select all that apply)		Ethnicity (select only one)
<input type="checkbox"/> American Indian or Alaska Native	<input type="checkbox"/> Asian	<input type="checkbox"/> Hispanic or Latino
<input type="checkbox"/> Native Hawaiian or Other Pacific Islander	<input type="checkbox"/> White	<input type="checkbox"/> Not Hispanic or Latino
<input type="checkbox"/> Recipient Refused	<input type="checkbox"/> Black or African-American	<input type="checkbox"/> Other
	<input type="checkbox"/> American Other Race	

The Texas Immunization Registry (ImmTrac2) is a free service of the Texas Department of State Health Services (DSHS). The Texas Immunization Registry is a secure and confidential service that consolidates and stores your immunization records. With your consent, your immunization information will be included in the Texas Immunization Registry. Doctors, public health departments, schools, and other authorized professionals can access your child's immunization history to ensure that important vaccines are not missed. For more information, see [Texas Health and Safety Code Sec. 161.007 \(d\)](https://statutes.capitol.texas.gov/Docs/HS/btm/HS.161.htm#161.007). <https://statutes.capitol.texas.gov/Docs/HS/btm/HS.161.htm#161.007>.

**Consent for Registration and Release of Immunization Records to Authorized Persons / Entities**  
I understand that, by granting the consent below, I am authorizing release of my immunization information to DSHS and I further understand that DSHS will include this information in the Texas Immunization Registry. Once in the Texas Immunization Registry, my immunization information may by law be accessed by: a Texas physician, or other health-care provider legally authorized to administer vaccines, for treatment of the individual as a patient; a Texas school in which the individual is enrolled; a Texas public health district or local health department, for public health purposes within their areas of jurisdiction; a state agency having legal custody of the individual; a payor, currently authorized by the Texas Department of Insurance to operate in Texas for immunization records relating to the specific individual covered under the payor's policy. I understand that I may withdraw this consent at any time by submitting a completed Withdrawal of Consent Form in writing to the Texas Department of State Health Services, Texas Immunization Registry.

State law permits the inclusion of immunization records for First Responders and their immediate family members in the Texas Immunization Registry. A "First Responder" is defined as a public safety employee or volunteer whose duties include responding rapidly to an emergency. An "immediate family member" is defined as a parent, spouse, child, or sibling who resides in the same household as the First Responder. For more information, see Texas Health and Safety Code Sec. 161.00705. <https://statutes.capitol.texas.gov/Docs/HS/btm/HS.161.htm#161.00705>.

**Please mark the appropriate box to indicate whether you are a First Responder or an Immediate Family Member.**  
☐ I am a FIRST RESPONDER. ☐ I am an IMMEDIATE FAMILY MEMBER (older than 18 years of age) of a First Responder.

By my signature below, I GRANT consent for registration. I wish to INCLUDE my information in the Texas Immunization Registry.  
**Individual (or individual's legally authorized representative):**  
\_\_\_\_\_  
Printed Name Signature Date

**Privacy Notification:** With few exceptions, you have the right to request and be informed about information that the State of Texas collects about you. You are entitled to receive and review the information upon request. You also have the right to ask the state agency to correct any information that is determined to be incorrect. See <http://www.dshs.texas.gov> for more information on Privacy Notification. (Reference: Government Code, Section 552.021, 552.023, 559.003, and 559.004)

**PROVIDERS REGISTERED WITH the Texas Immunization Registry:** Please enter client information in the Texas Immunization Registry and affirm that consent has been granted. **DO NOT** fax to the Texas Immunization Registry. **Retain this form in your client's record.**

**Questions?** Tel: (800) 252-9152 • Fax: (512) 776-7790 • <https://www.dshs.texas.gov/immunize/immtrac/>  
Texas Department of State Health Services • Immunizations • Texas Immunization Registry – MC 1946 • P. O. Box 149347 • Austin, TX 78714-9347



Texas Department of State  
Health Services

## Texas Immunization Registry (ImmTrac2) Minor Consent Form



A parent, legal guardian or managing conservator must sign this form if the client is younger than 18 years of age.

Child's First Name Child's Middle Name Child's Last Name

\_\_\_\_\_/\_\_\_\_\_/\_\_\_\_ Child's Gender: ☐ Male - ☐ Female

Child's Date of Birth (mm/dd/yyyy) Telephone Email address

Child's Address Apartment # / Building #

City State Zip Code County

Mother's First Name Mother's Maiden Name

Race (select all that apply)		Ethnicity (select only one)
<input type="checkbox"/> American Indian or Alaska Native	<input type="checkbox"/> Asian	<input type="checkbox"/> Hispanic or Latino
<input type="checkbox"/> Native Hawaiian or Other Pacific Islander	<input type="checkbox"/> White	<input type="checkbox"/> Not Hispanic or Latino
<input type="checkbox"/> Recipient Refused	<input type="checkbox"/> Black or African-American	<input type="checkbox"/> Other
	<input type="checkbox"/> American Other Race	

The Texas Immunization Registry (ImmTrac2) is a free service of the Texas Department of State Health Services (DSHS). The Texas Immunization Registry is a secure and confidential service that consolidates and stores your child's (younger than 18 years of age) immunization records. With your consent, your child's immunization information will be included in the Texas Immunization Registry. Doctors, public health departments, schools, and other authorized professionals can access your child's immunization history to ensure that important vaccines are not missed. For more information, see Texas Health and Safety Code Sec. 161.007 (d). <https://statutes.capitol.texas.gov/Docs/HS/btm/HS.161.btm#161.007>.

### Consent for Registration of Child and Release of Immunization Records to Authorized Persons/Entities

I understand that, by granting the consent below, I am authorizing release of the child's immunization information to DSHS and I further understand that DSHS will include this information in the Texas Immunization Registry. Once in the Texas Immunization Registry, the child's immunization information may by law be accessed by a public health district or local health department, for public health purposes within their areas of jurisdiction; a physician, or other health-care provider legally authorized to administer vaccines, for treating the child as a patient; a state agency having legal custody of the child; a Texas school or child-care facility in which the child is enrolled; and a payor, currently authorized by the Texas Department of Insurance to operate in Texas, regarding coverage for the child. I understand that I may withdraw this consent at any time by submitting a completed Withdrawal of Consent Form in writing to the Texas Department of State Health Services, Texas Immunization Registry.

State law permits the inclusion of immunization records for First Responders and their immediate family members in the Texas Immunization Registry. A "First Responder" is defined as a public safety employee or volunteer whose duties include responding rapidly to an emergency. An "immediate family member" is defined as a parent, spouse, child, or sibling who resides in the same household as the First Responder. For more information, see Texas Health and Safety Code Sec. 161.00705. <https://statutes.capitol.texas.gov/Docs/HS/btm/HS.161.btm#161.00705>.

**Please mark the box below to indicate whether your child is an Immediate Family Member of a First Responder.**

☐ I am an IMMEDIATE FAMILY MEMBER of a First Responder.

By my signature below, I GRANT consent for registration. I wish to INCLUDE my child's information in the Texas Immunization Registry.

Parent, legal guardian, or managing conservator:

\_\_\_\_\_  
 Printed Name Signature Date

**Privacy Notification:** With few exceptions, you have the right to request and be informed about information that the State of Texas collects about you. You are entitled to receive and review the information upon request. You also have the right to ask the state agency to correct any information that is determined to be incorrect. See <http://www.dshs.texas.gov> for more information on Privacy Notification. (Reference: Government Code, Section 552.021, 552.023, 559.003, and 559.004)

**PROVIDERS REGISTERED WITH the Texas Immunization Registry:** Please enter client information in the Texas Immunization Registry and affirm that consent has been granted. **DO NOT** fax to the Texas Immunization Registry. **Retain this form in your client's record.**

**Questions?** Tel: (800) 252-9152 • Fax: (512) 776-7790 • <https://www.dshs.texas.gov/immunize/immtrac/>

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