



Shield Texas Children From Infectious Diseases

Texas' future generations are at risk. The Texas Legislature can implement measures to help ensure kids can avoid preventable illnesses and disease.

Kids Are Behind on Shots ...

The pandemic greatly affected children's routine vaccinations. While vaccinations have returned to pre-pandemic levels after a 26.3% decrease in 2020, delinquency rates have increased three- to fourfold, indicating many students remain behind.^{1,2} Children need to be in schools to learn and thrive, which is why a proven public health tool, like vaccines, is essential to safeguard against disease outbreaks that could keep them out of the classroom. Texas must help schools continue to prioritize and balance students' education, health, and safety.

Conscientious Exemptions Increase

K-12th grade conscientious vaccine exemptions have increased nearly 200% over the past decade.³ Exemption rates for measles and polio – two of the most contagious diseases – were at an all-time high among Texas kindergarteners for the 2021-22 school year.² Exemption rates vary greatly across schools, and parents are unaware of the health risks posed to their children.

Vaccinations are cost-effective, disease-preventing, and lifesaving.

Vaccinations given to children born between 1994 and 2021 will:



Prevent 472 million illnesses



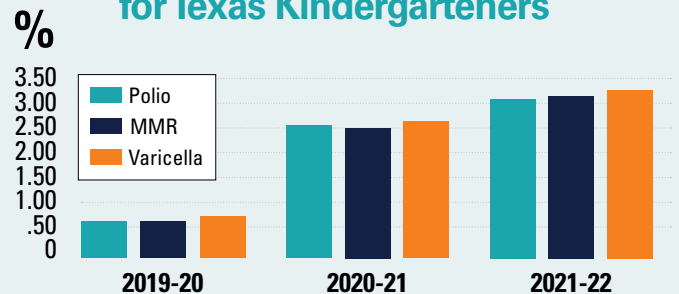
Help avoid 1 million deaths



Save \$2.2 trillion in direct and societal costs⁶

Source: Centers for Disease Control and Prevention

Vaccination Delinquency Rates for Texas Kindergarteners



Children in Uninsured, Low-Income Households Most Affected

The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention's National Immunization Surveys reported continued lower overall vaccination rates for uninsured, low-income, and Black and Hispanic children.⁴ Barriers to accessing services, financial challenges, missed vaccination opportunities, and higher vaccine hesitancy can contribute to lower vaccination rates. Texas' children's uninsured rate is the highest in the country at 11.8% and is more than twice the national average of 5.4%.⁵ To protect all Texans from disease, it is vital to ensure access to routine vaccinations through improving essential coverage and access to the medical home.

The Texas Public Health Coalition supports defending the immunization policies that have kept our children and our communities safe for decades.

1 Vaccinations Administered, Texas Immunization Registry, ImmTrac2
 2 www.dshs.texas.gov/immunize/coverage/docs/2021-2022-Results-of-Annual-Report-of-Immunization-Status.pdf
 3 www.dshs.texas.gov/immunize/coverage/Conscientious-Exemptions-Data.shtm
 4 National Immunization Survey-Child (NIS-Child)
 5 U.S. Census Bureau American Community Survey (ACS) Table HIC-5, Health Insurance Coverage Status and Type of Coverage by State - Children Under 19: 2008 to 2021
 6 www.cdc.gov/vaccines/programs/vfc/protecting-children.html



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	Texas Association of Community Health Centers
American Heart Association	Texas Chapter of the American College of Physicians Services
American Lung Association	Texas Dental Association
Blue Cross Blue Shield of Texas	Texas eHealth Alliance
Children's Hospital Association of Texas	Texas Health Institute
The Cooper Institute	Texas Hospital Association
Harris County Public Health	Texas Medical Association
The Immunization Partnership	Texas Nurses Association
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Methodist Healthcare Ministries	Texas Pediatric Society
National Service Office for Nurse-Family Partnership and Child First	Texas Physicians for Social Responsibility
Texas Academy of Family Physicians	Texas Renal Coalition
Texas Academy of Physician Assistants	Texas School Nurses Organization
Texas Association of City & County Health Officials	Texas Society for Adolescent Health and Medicine
	Texas State Alliance of YMCAs
	United Ways of Texas

RESOURCES

CANCER PREVENTION AND RESEARCH INSTITUTE OF TEXAS
MD ANDERSON CANCER CENTER

MICHAEL AND SUSAN DELL CENTER FOR HEALTHY LIVING
PARTNERSHIP FOR A HEALTHY TEXAS

TEXAS DEPARTMENT OF STATE HEALTH SERVICES
TEXAS PUBLIC HEALTH ASSOCIATION