



# Improve Texas' Public Health Infrastructure

The Texas Legislature can ensure the state has a modernized public health system and ample workforce.

## What Is Public Health Infrastructure?

- Agencies available to respond to the needs of the population
- Up-to-date data and information systems that provide critical information
- A capable and qualified workforce that delivers essential public health services every day to the population

Source: Healthy People 2030

## Disasters, disease outbreaks, and pandemics can severely test Texas' public health infrastructure.

Ongoing improvements to the data system and an adequate and trained staff can help guarantee a strong public health infrastructure in the day-to-day and in times of crisis.

## The Texas Public Health Coalition Recommends:

- 1. Modernize Texas' communication and data system** (collection, monitoring, planning, and reporting) to be statewide, integrated, interoperable, and bi-directional between the state and local entities.
- 2. Support employee recruitment, hiring, and retention to sustain an adequate public health workforce.**

PROBLEMS	SOLUTIONS
Case reporting from labs to state and local health departments remains untimely, inconsistent, or incomplete. During a disaster, this becomes especially problematic.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>✓ Enforce requirements for laboratories to report case results promptly and consistently</li> <li>✓ Extend these same expectations to other sites performing large-scale testing</li> </ul>
Local health departments use outdated data systems that become strained under high volume of case reports. This causes backlogs and coding errors and slows the state's response to disease threats. In addition, data systems continue to not be interoperable.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>✓ Modernize state and local data systems to be interoperable and that work with existing data-collection tools</li> </ul>
Public health entities have difficulty recruiting, hiring, and retaining staff to support necessary public health services, including the capability to analyze disease surveillance data and administer clinical and programmatic services.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>✓ Support efforts to recruit, hire, and retain staff, including trained epidemiologists, public health specialists/nurses, educators, community health workers, and more</li> <li>✓ Sustain this workforce at all times</li> </ul>



# 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
It's Time Texas	Texas Oral Health Coalition, Inc.
March of Dimes	Texas Osteopathic Medical Association
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

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## 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