

Texas Medical Association

Public Health Priorities

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Agenda

- TMA Overview
- TMA Emergency & Disaster Response
 - Hurricane Harvey
 - COVID-19 Pandemic
 - TMA Policies on Preparedness
- Strategic National Stockpile
- ImmTrac2
- Vaccine Hesitancy
- Emerging & Re-emerging Infectious Diseases
- Public Health Funding
- Other Public Health Priorities

TMA



Vision: Improving the Health of All Texans

Mission: Empowering Texas Physicians in the Practice of Medicine

About TMA

TMA is currently the largest and one of the oldest state medical associations in the US, with over 57,000 physician and medical student members.

TMA consists of over 30 specialized councils, committees, and sections dedicated to physician priorities in legislation, medical economics, public health, and more.

TMA acts on physician priorities through grassroots policy-making which contributes to legislative priorities.



TMA Emergency & Disaster Response

- Hurricane Harvey
- COVID-19 Pandemic
- TMA Policies on Preparedness

Hurricane Harvey

- TMA Disaster Relief Fund
- TMA physician volunteers at medical shelters
- Consulting to practices to help navigate insurer obstacles
- Disseminate news and information
- Map of shelters for people dispersed by the hurricane
- Disaster liability white paper
- Assist patients with accessing pharmacies for prescriptions

COVID-19 Pandemic

- TMA Board of Trustees created the TMA COVID-19 Task Force
 - School Reopening Workgroup
 - Outpatient Vaccination Workgroup
- DSHS Collaboration
- Incident Command Calls
- TeleTown Halls
- Personal Protective Equipment
- Resources: "Know Your Risk" chart, FAQs, podcasts, clinic guides & signs

TMA Policies on Preparedness

- TMA Disaster Preparedness Planning & Response policy:
 - Collaboration & communication with DSHS
 - Promote physician participation in state & local planning & response
 - Utilize county medical societies
 - Disseminate timely information
 - Advocate for disaster planning measures
- Minimum Disaster Preparedness Standards for Assisted Living
- Voluntary Unique Patient Identifier
- Good Samaritan and Charitable Immunity Laws
- Bioterrorism & Bioterrorism Education

Strategic National Stockpile

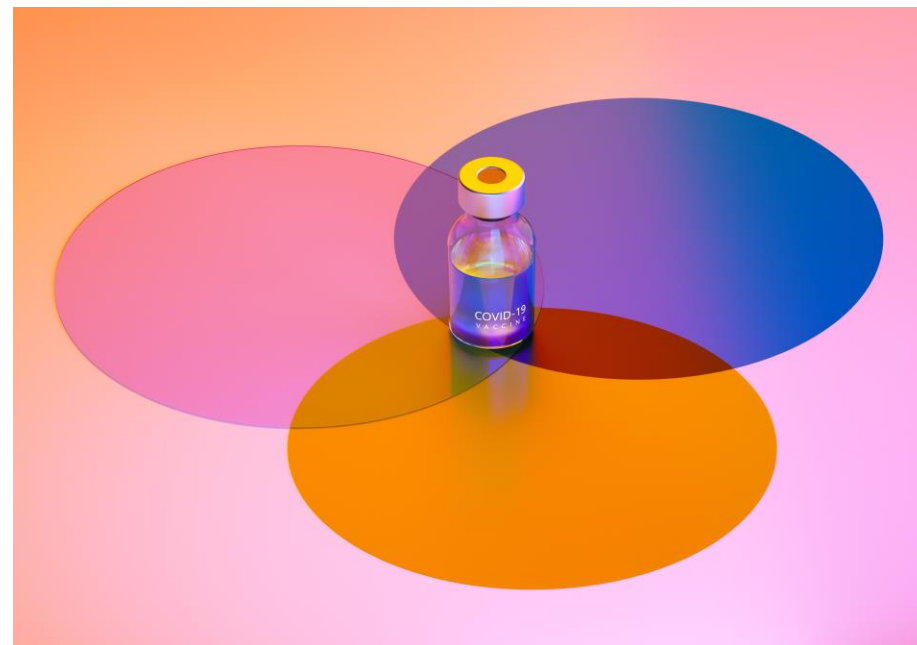
- Federal funds authorized for state stockpiles; currently waiting on federal funding and rulemaking
- States can pursue funding to create their state-specific or regional stockpile program
- Texas has authority to approve and create stockpile program
- 88R Article II Budget Rider 36 - Strategic National Stockpile for Health Emergency Preparedness and Response: "...[For DSHS]...to establish, expand, or maintain a stockpile of appropriate medicines, medical devices, protective equipment, and other supplies determined necessary by this state to respond to a disaster..."

ImmTrac2

- Accessible to physicians, health departments, and other health professionals
- The registry helps ensure individuals only receive the vaccines they need
- Identifies first-responders and their vaccination status to ensure the full protection during an emergency
- Obstacles to optimal function:
 - Six different consent types
 - Premature deletion of records if consent is obtained during an emergency
 - Communication of impending deletion
 - Opt-in right now vs. Opt-out

Vaccine Hesitancy

- Challenges
 - Efforts to ban mRNA vaccines in Texas
 - Efforts to add an additional consent form
 - General misinformation
 - DNA and gene therapy
 - Microchips, magnetism
 - Fertility
 - Increase in childhood vaccine exemptions



Emerging & Re-emerging Infectious Diseases

- Congenital Syphilis & Syphilis
- Influenza (incl. Avian)
- Measles
- Mumps
- Varicella
- Pertussis
- Mpox
- Ebola, Marburg
- Neglected Tropical Diseases:
 - West Nile
 - Zika
 - Chikungunya
 - Dengue
 - Chagas Disease
 - Leishmaniasis
 - Oropouche Fever

Public Health Funding - DSHS

TMA supports full funding of DSHS' legislative appropriations and exceptional items (EI) requests

Maintain Public Health Operations

- Exceptional Item 1: Current Agency Operations
- Exceptional Item 2: Maintain Agency Infrastructure
- Exceptional Item 3: Lab Capacity
- Exceptional Item 5: Regional and Local Public Health Services

Maternal & Child Health

- Exceptional Item 4: Congenital Syphilis
- Exceptional Item 8: Maternal and Child Health Data

Cancer Prevention

- Exceptional Item 7: Tobacco-Related Cancers

Public Health Funding - HHSC

TMA supports full funding of HHSC's legislative appropriations and exceptional items (EI) requests

Medicaid & CHIP

- Exceptional Item 1: Client Services Cost Growth
- Exceptional Item 2: Eligibility Determinations
- Exceptional Item 3: Support Ongoing Operations
- Exceptional Item 4: Modernize Medicaid Systems
- Exceptional Item 7: Prevent Loss of Services
- Exceptional Item 24: Consolidated Rate Request

Women & Child Health

- Exceptional Item 5: Federal Cuts to Health Services
- Exceptional Item 10: Protecting from Abuse and Neglect
- Exceptional Item 12: Children's Mental Health Plan

People with Disabilities

- Exceptional Item 17: Increasing Services

Other Public Health Priorities

Equipping Physicians

- Protecting the physician-patient relationship
- Telemedicine payment parity
- Emergency physicians' ability to hold psychiatric patients until safe to release

Patient Access

- Physician workforce
- Drivers of health
 - Food as medicine
 - Reliable broadband access

Specific Population Needs

- Protecting underage children from accessing THC products
- Social media and protecting children
- Substance use disorders: fentanyl, opioids
- Physician mental health
- Women's reproductive and pregnancy health

“[TMA has] a strong voice with our state policy makers, speaking for thousands and thousands of doctors, making us stronger than we are as individuals in our specialties. TMA comes together for us.”

- Patti Patterson, MD, former DSHS Commissioner

Thank You!

Questions?

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