

Background

ImmTrac, the Texas immunization registry, is a no cost service from the Texas Department of State Health Services (DSHS). This secure, confidential registry stores a client's immunization information electronically in one central system and offers health-care providers, clients, parents, and schools easy access to a client's immunization history. ImmTrac can help ensure that clients are vaccinated on time and helps prevent over- and under-immunization. Written consent is required for a client to participate in ImmTrac.

Current Texas Law

DSHS recently implemented the legislative requirements of Senate Bill (SB) 346, 81st Legislature, allowing ImmTrac to maintain immunization records for individuals 18 years and older. In the past, ImmTrac primarily stored immunization information for children. Now ImmTrac may store immunizations for Texans of all ages.

Increase Provider and Client Participation

- All health-care providers must report all vaccines administered to a child less than 18 years of age to ImmTrac.
- Health care providers shall report all immunization information to ImmTrac within 30 days of administering the vaccine.
- Allows DSHS to verify consent by accepting an affirmation from a health-care provider, birth registrar, or local registry that proper written consent has been obtained.

Protect the Privacy and Confidentiality of Registry Data

- DSHS must provide notification to the child's parent the first time registry data are received for a child for whom the department has received consent to be included in the Registry.
- ImmTrac must delete a client's immunization record from the Registry after receiving a written request for withdrawal of consent from the client.

Increase Utility of Registry and Registry Data

- Registry information of a client may now be released to the following authorized entities:
 - A clients 's parent, legal guardian or managing conservator
 - Public health districts and local health departments
 - A physician to the client or any provider authorized to administer vaccines
 - A school or child-care facility in which ta client (child) is enrolled
 - An insurance company, health maintenance organization or payor
 - A state agency having legal custody of a client
- DSHS and authorized providers may use registry data to send *Reminder* and *Recall* notices to clients 17 years old and younger.
- Registry information of a first responder or an immediate family member of a first responder, over 18 years of age, may only be released with the consent of the individual or to any health-care provider licensed or otherwise authorized to administer vaccines.
- Registry information of an individual given to prepare for a potential or declared disaster **or** public health emergency **or** in response to such an event may be released only on consent of the individual. or in the case of a client younger than 18 years of age, the child's parent, managing conservator or guardian, to a state agency or health-care provider for:
 - The purpose outlined in Texas Health and Safety Code, Chapter 161, Subchapter A and/or The purpose of aiding or coordinating communicable disease prevention and control efforts during a declared disaster, public health emergency, terrorist attack, hostile military or paramilitary action or extraordinary law enforcement emergency **How to Report Immunizations to ImmTrac and When to Obtain Consent**

- ImmTrac offers two ways to report immunizations:
 - Direct Internet access
 - Electronic data transfer from electronic health records (EHR) software
- Written consent for ImmTrac participation:
 - Over 92% of Texas, newborns are registered for ImmTrac participation by parental consent granted during the birth registration process.
 - Providers should obtain consent if an ImmTrac search is performed and the client's record is not found in the Registry.
 - Providers can "affirm" consent when the client's information is added to the Registry.
 - Parental consent is required for clients 17 years old and younger for ImmTrac participation.
 - Adult clients, 18 years of age and older, must provide written consent to participate in ImmTrac.

Community Preparedness Functionality

- ImmTrac serves as the tracking and reporting system for Texas' community preparedness efforts.
- ImmTrac will include information on individuals who receive an immunization, antiviral or other medication to **prepare for** a potential or declared disaster or public health emergency or in response to such an event.
- Health-care providers administering immunizations, antivirals or other medications to **prepare for** a potential or declared disaster or public health emergency or in response to such event must report this information to ImmTrac.
- ImmTrac will retain impacted individuals' records for a retention period of five (5) years after event has been declared over.
- The opportunity to grant consent to remain an ImmTrac participant after the disaster/emergency situation retention period has lapsed will be offered at time of vaccination or may be requested prior to the end of record retention period.
- Legislation allows for tracking of adverse reactions to an immunization, antiviral, or other medication.

Impact on First Responders

- First responders may request inclusion of their immunization records in ImmTrac.
- Immediate family members of first responders over 18 years of age may request inclusion of their immunization records in ImmTrac.
- First responders and their immediate family members may withdraw from ImmTrac participation any time.
- DSHS must develop and implement a first responder education plan.
- The opportunity is provided for first responders or their family members to consent in advance that any immunizations, antivirals or other medications given to **prepare for** a potential or declared disaster or public health emergency or in response to such event may be retained after the retention period of five (5) years.

"First Responder" and "Immediate Family Member" Definitions

Per the U.S. Government Code (§ 421.095) definition, the term "first responder" is any public safety employee or volunteer whose duties include responding rapidly to an emergency and includes peace officers, fire protection personnel, volunteer firefighters, and emergency medical services personnel. Persons in these professions may request inclusion of their immunization record in ImmTrac. An immediate family member over the age of 18 years (parent, spouse, child, or sibling) of a first responder who resides in the same household as the first responder may also request inclusion of his or her immunization information in ImmTrac.

To Register for ImmTrac access, complete the *Provider Registration Packet* available from our website, www.ImmTrac.com.

Phone: (800) 252-9152

E-mail: ImmTrac@dshs.state.tx.us

Website: www.ImmTrac.com

Microsite: www.ImmTracForEveryone.com

