



TEXAS
Health and Human Services

Texas Department of State
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Healthcare Safety Newsletter

Healthcare Safety Unit: Protecting Texans

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Alerts and Advisories

Follow the Department of State Health Services' (DSHS') news and alerts for the [measles outbreak](#).

Antimicrobial Use and Resistance Updates

Antimicrobial Assessment Tool



Antimicrobial resistance (AR) occurs when a germ develops the ability to defeat medicines designed to kill them. According to CDC's [AR Threats Report](#), AR sickens more than 2.8 million people and kills at least 35,000 people in the United States. The Healthcare Safety Unit supports healthcare facilities to combat AR by providing non-regulatory assessments of proper antibiotic use and improving prescribing practices.

These free and voluntary assessments:

- Provide feedback to improve patient outcomes
- Reduce infection treatment costs
- Strengthen how antibiotics are prescribed and used in healthcare facilities
- Improve CDC Core Elements for improving antibiotic use



Scan the QR code shown to access the interest survey and schedule an assessment. Contact HSUTraining@dshs.texas.gov for questions or additional resources.

Association for Professionals in Infection Control and Epidemiology



Empowering Healthcare Through Training Strategies That Work

The Association for Professionals in Infection Control and Epidemiology (APIC) released a podcast on how to improve infection prevention training in healthcare. Tune in to hear Drs. Terri Rebmann and Ashley Hughes discuss techniques such as just-in-time training, mentorships, and simulation-based learning. Frontline workers prefer these innovative training strategies because they are more interesting and efficient than traditional techniques.

Resource: [#43 Revolutionizing Infection Prevention: Empowering Healthcare Through Training Strategies That Work – AJIC Podcast Website](#)

Department of State Health Services Audiovisual Library

DSHS Audiovisual Library provides free access to video streaming for people doing work related to:

- Health education
- Safety on the job
- Safety and health training
- Emergency services

To access streaming services, Texas residents aged 18 and above can register at [Streaming Video Registration Forms | Texas DSHS](#). For more information, visit: [Audiovisual Library | Texas DSHS](#).

Featured Resource: Understanding and Preventing Heat-related Illnesses

Location: Online at [Library catalog](#). Publisher: Raleigh, NC: Training Network, 2022.

Outlines how heat affects the human body, how to recognize and treat symptoms of heat-related conditions and strategies to reduce the effects of heat. Watch to learn more!

Preventable Adverse Events

Preventable Adverse Events (PAEs) cause unintended harm by an act of commission or omission (not the underlying disease or condition), such as medication errors or foreign objects retained after surgery. Chapter 98, Texas Health and Safety Code requires general hospitals and ambulatory surgery centers to report PAEs to DSHS. PAEs are reported when they occur or at least quarterly within 60 days of the end of the quarter. The next reporting deadline is August 31, 2025, for events occurring during April-June 2025.

Infection Control Resources

Project Firstline



[Measles](#) is a highly contagious infectious disease which can lead to severe illness and even death; early identification and immediate action are crucial. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention's (CDC's) Project Firstline created [Infection Control Micro-Learn: Measles](#), an infection control training tool. The measles micro-learn provides an adaptable discussion guide to facilitate conversations on-the-job where groups of healthcare workers meet (e.g., pre-shift huddles, team meetings).

This measles micro-learn provides a clear disease overview, outlines key symptoms, airborne transmission risks, and the importance of the Measles, Mumps, and Rubella vaccine for healthcare workers. It also offers step-by-step guidance for suspected measles cases and actions you can take to prevent the spread (e.g., isolation protocols, proper personal protective equipment, and the importance of communication with infection prevention teams and public health authorities). This resource serves as a valuable tool to recognize and prevent the spread of measles in healthcare settings.

For more information: [Interim Infection Prevention and Control Recommendations for Measles in Healthcare Settings | Infection Control | CDC](#)

Safety

Workplace Violence Prevention

Workplace violence occurs more often in healthcare settings than in any other occupation but is often underreported. Workplace violence is any act or threat of violence including verbal abuse, physical assault, bullying and harassment. The events can have serious physical and mental effects on healthcare staff. [Chapter 331 of the Texas Health and Safety Code](#) requires healthcare facilities to establish and enforce a workplace violence prevention program that includes violence prevention training, confidential reporting, preventing retaliation and offering post-incident services. The Occupational Safety and Health Administration and The Joint Commission provide resources and training for workplace violence prevention.

For more information:
[Healthcare - Workplace Violence | Occupational Safety and Health Administration](#)
[Workplace Violence Prevention Resources | The Joint Commission](#)

Upcoming Events

[Texas Healthcare Safety Conference](#): DSHS annual Healthcare Safety Conference held virtually and in-person in Austin, TX on July 22 and 23, 2025.

[Quality in Long-Term Care Conference](#): Texas Health and Human Services, in collaboration with The University of Texas at Austin Steve Hicks School of Social Work announce their Quality in Long-Term Care Conference on August 27 and 28, 2025. Registration is [open](#).

[NAHQ 2025 Conference](#): The National Association for Healthcare Quality (NAHQ) announces their virtual conference on September 8-10, 2025. Registration is [open](#).

Infection Prevention and Control Champions

Healthcare Safety Unit's New Initiative

The Healthcare Safety Unit (HSU) is highlighting collaborative HAI/AR prevention efforts between local health departments and healthcare facilities through the recognition of Infection Prevention and Control (IPC) Champions. IPC Champions help further the HSU's mission to ensure Texans achieve safe, quality healthcare by incorporating IPC strategies to reduce outbreaks, respond to facility outbreaks, and reduce AR through AS efforts.

Selected IPC Champions will be featured in the HSU Newsletter distributed quarterly to healthcare and public health partners. Nominate a healthcare facility or health department here: [Infection Prevention and Control Champions Form](#).

Well-Being Check

Feeling Overwhelmed?



Life is filled with many changes which can lead to stress or anxiety. The National Institute of Mental Health (NIMH) released a factsheet, "[I'm so stressed out!](#)" This resource helps readers learn and recognize the symptoms and differences between stress and anxiety, management strategies, and when more help is needed.

NIMH defines stress as a response to an external event that usually goes away once the situation is resolved, while anxiety is an internal reaction to stress that is constant without any clear threat. Symptoms include excess worry, unease, headaches, or trouble sleeping. The fact sheet provides coping techniques such as journaling, exercise, and breathing techniques. Learn the differences and how to manage them to help reduce stress, anxiety, and improve your daily life.

For more information: [I'm So Stressed Out! Fact Sheet - National Institute of Mental Health \(NIMH\)](#)