



The Texas Public Health Coalition is a coalition of health professional organizations and health-focused organizations dedicated to disease prevention and health promotion.

Texas Public Health Coalition

John Carlo, MD, Chair

www.txphc.org

MEMBERS

Alzheimer's Association
American Cancer Society Cancer Action Network
American Heart Association
Blue Cross Blue Shield of Texas
Children's Hospital Association of Texas
The Cooper Institute
Harris County Public Health
The Immunization Partnership
March of Dimes
Methodist Healthcare Ministries
Texas Academy of Family Physicians
Texas Academy of Nutrition and Dietetics
Texas Academy of Physician Assistants
Texas Association of City & County Health Officials
Texas Association of Community Health Centers
Texas eHealth Alliance
Texas Health Institute
Texas Hospital Association
Texas Medical Association
Texas Nurses Association
Texas Oral Health Coalition, Inc.
Texas Osteopathic Medical Association
Texas Pediatric Society
Texas Physicians for Social Responsibility
Texas Public Health Association
Texas Renal Coalition
Texas School Nurses Organization
Texas State Alliance of YMCAs
United Ways of Texas

RESOURCES

Bexar County Medical Society
Cancer Prevention and Research Institute of Texas
Harris County Public Health
MD Anderson Cancer Center
Michael and Susan Dell Center For Healthy Living
Partnership for a Healthy Texas
Travis County Medical Society
Texas Department of State Health Services

2019 Interim Charge Recommendations

The Texas Public Health Coalition works to reduce preventable disease by advancing public policies that promote a safe and healthy environment and healthy behaviors for all Texans. We believe it is essential to continuously monitor the nature of evolving threats to public health, and evaluate the effectiveness of current policy in place to address those threats.

We present the following interim charge recommendations to the 86th Texas Legislature with the goal to build upon recent progress in preventing infectious disease, tobacco and e-cigarette use, and obesity prevention. Together, with the leadership of our legislators, we can continue to eliminate preventable risks to public health and safety and create a state where all Texans can thrive.

House Public Health Committee

Monitor the implementation of House Bill 1848 to prevent communicable diseases in long-term care facilities. Review opportunities to increase awareness, share information, and strengthen notification of multi-drug resistant organism infections (MDRO) infections. Study the most effective and cost-efficient strategies implemented by other states in the management of MDROs and antimicrobial resistance, especially regarding disclosure, transparency, liability, and facility compliance.

Rationale: MDROs are bacteria that have become resistant to the antibiotics designed to kill them. MDRO infections in Texas continue to rise, with hundreds of antibiotic-resistant pathogens detected every year. Physicians find that residents of long-term care facilities are particularly vulnerable to MDRO infection. Though the legislature and the Department of State Health Services have taken promising initial steps to combat infections caused by MDROs, there are still wide gaps in MDRO awareness and management that must be addressed to reduce dangerous, potentially fatal infections.

Examine existing state resources and capabilities to further reduce youth

access to tobacco products, including e-cigarettes. Study the most effective approaches in preventing adolescent tobacco and e-cigarette use, including taxation methods, restricting flavors, limiting youth access via retail licensing restrictions, reducing youth exposure to marketing, and assuring retailer compliance. Assess the most effective funding mechanisms used in other states to implement and enforce Tobacco 21 legislation, including use of tobacco and/or e-cigarette tax revenue to support youth tobacco and e-cigarette prevention.

Rationale: Youth tobacco and e-cigarette use remains a growing concern in Texas. An estimated one in five Texas high school students are current e-cigarette users, putting the next generation at risk for nicotine addiction, impaired brain development, and potentially severe lung disease. Progress must be made to strengthen our state's current efforts to enforce the new Tobacco 21 law to keep tobacco and e-cigarettes out of the hands of young Texans. We must study and implement proven youth tobacco and e-cigarette prevention strategies in order to sustain and strengthen last session's Tobacco 21 efforts to protect Texas youth.

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House Public Education Committee

Study and assess school enrollment process related to delinquent and provisional immunization status. Determine what successes, constraints, or limitations school districts encounter when implementing admission and eligibility requirements – especially in areas where access to consistent care may be limited. Make recommendations to identify evidenced based system processes to improve compliance.

Rationale: In many school districts across the state, there are more students who are delinquent from their admission required immunizations rather than parents who have exempted them from immunizations. Busy parents can forget to get their child immunized despite reminders from school nurses. To ensure safety from preventable infectious disease, we must ensure community immunity exceeds necessary levels.

Study the quality, amount, and scope of physical education and physical activity students are receiving in school districts across the state. Examine data collected by the Texas Education Agency as outlined in Senate Bill 1873 (85th Texas Legislature) and make recommendations that improve access to moderate to vigorous physical activity while improving academic performance and classroom behavior.

Rationale: According to the Robert Wood Johnson Foundation, Texas has the 14th highest adult obesity rate in the nation, and the seventh highest obesity rate for youth ages 10 to 17. Obesity contributes to Texas' rising rates of chronic diseases, including diabetes and hypertension, as well as maternal mortality and morbidity, thus increasing costs to state-funded health care programs and reducing working productivity. To combat obesity, we must intervene early and teach children healthy physical activity habits.

Please contact **John Carlo, MD**, Chair, Texas Public Health Coalition with questions about any recommendations at john.carlo@prismntx.org.

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TEXAS PUBLIC HEALTH COALITION

2019 Texas Public Health Coalition Member Organizations



www.texaspha.org



www.tachc.org



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