

HEALTH NEWS

Volume 1, Issue 5

Summer 2013

*August is National
Immunization Awareness Month!*

COMAL COUNTY PUBLIC HEALTH

Where is Reliable Immunization Information?

Are you confused by the amount of immunization information on the Internet? If so, you're not alone. Here are some tips to help you navigate your way through all of the information available and determine its accuracy.

(1) A reliable health web site will display who is responsible for the site. Also, there will be a way to contact the information provider or webmaster. (2) Information should not be slanted in favor of a web site's sponsor or source of funding. Health-related information should be accurate and unbiased.

Ask yourself:

Do scientific experts review the medical information before it is posted on the web site? What are their credentials? Does the information display the date of last revision, and is it current? What is the scientific evidence for claims made? The original source of facts and figures should be disclosed.



American Academy of Pediatrics
www.aap.org

Centers for Disease Control and Prevention
www.cdc.gov

Immunization Action Coalition
www.immunize.org

Vaccine Education Center
www.vaccine.chop.edu

Texas Department of State Health Services
www.dshs.state.tx.us

Measles, Mumps, and Rubella (MMR)

Adults born in the United States before 1957 are considered immune to both measles and mumps because the diseases were so widespread in the pre-vaccine era. Individuals who were born

1957 may need to receive booster shots, or be revaccinated with MMR, if they are members of one of the following groups:

- College students
- Health care worker

- Women of childbearing age who may become pregnant
- Those who received the killed measles vaccine between 1963-1967

www.historyofvaccines.org

Questions?

Call your medical provider or Comal County Public Health.



Inside this issue:

Reliable Immunization Information	1
MMR	1
Meet Our Staff: Emergency Preparedness	2
Volunteers Needed	2
ImmTrac	3
Scheduling a Shot Clinic	4
Be Prepared!	4
Comal County Public Health Services	4

Who's Maurice Hilleman?

He developed over 40 vaccines from the 1940's to 2000's, notably measles, mumps, and hepatitis B, among other accomplishments. Some observers have noted that Hilleman may have saved more lives than any other single person.

historyofvaccines.org



Meet Our Emergency Preparedness Professionals

Vaccines Save Lives!

"There was a time when diphtheria was one of the most feared childhood diseases, claiming more than 10,000 lives a year in the United States during the 1920's."

healthychildren.org
American Academy of Pediatrics

Life is not merely to be alive, but to be well.

~ Marcus Valerius Martial

Looking for a good book?

The Speckled Monster: A Historic Tale of Battling Smallpox

By



In the event of a natural or man-made emergency, Comal County has a team of professionals to coordinate and assist the public. Working along with the Comal County Emergency Management Coordinator, Public Health has a two-person team focused on the public health aspect of emergencies: Chris Washington and Ken Schein.

Chris is the Public Health Emergency Preparedness (PHEP) Coordinator. He has an important role in planning & organizing public health response in the event of an emergency. He has a Master's Degree in Public Health from Texas A&M.

Ken works part-time to help educate the public about emergency

preparedness and to recruit volunteers. Ken has an extensive background in forestry, having a B.S. in Forestry and retiring after 27 years with New Mexico State Forestry. His professional experiences prepared him for the work he does here: public speaking and educational training.

Both Chris and Ken enjoy their work at Comal County Public Health, "I enjoy learning about the day to day operations of the health department," says Chris. Ken enjoys working with his co-workers at Public Health "I think the residents of this county are fortunate to have the employees of Comal County Public Health looking after their health-related interests. The office is blessed with caring, motivated, &

Comal County's PHEP team is committed to the health and safety of all individuals.

Preparedness is crucial. "Being prepared is not hard," says Ken, "the results of personal and family security pay back with peace of mind." You can contact Chris and Ken at (830) 221-1150 or the email addresses below.

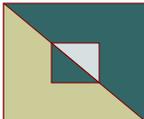
Chris Washington

washic@co.comal.tx.us

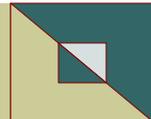
Ken Schein

schein@co.comal.tx.us

"We are always here to help."



Volunteers Needed for Emergency Preparedness



Comal County Public Health is actively recruiting volunteers to assist in the event of a public emergency such as a flood, disease pandemic, or the accidental or intentional release of a toxic agent. Our volunteers have an important role in Comal County's emergency response plan to open Points of Dispensing (POD) sites that dispense life-saving medications to citizens if the need arises.

So, what is a POD? In the event of a serious public health emergency, pre-selected places are set-up to dispense preventive treatments for a specified

danger. These POD sites are typically places commonly known to county citizens. Medications will be shipped within 12 hours from the Strategic National Stockpile to the POD sites. An organizational process is needed to ensure an orderly and rapid dispensing of medication. Volunteers are needed to ensure the process is smooth and efficient: parking, getting in line, signing-in, receiving medication, and exiting.

Ken Schein, the Emergency Preparedness Volunteer Coordinator, presents emergency preparedness presentations to

throughout Comal County. During these presentations, he explains the volunteer program and recruits volunteers.

Being a volunteer is very simple. There will be 1-2 training opportunities each year and monthly email contact. Also, if you volunteer at a POD, you & your family will receive your medication first! There is an application form available online via the public health website.

www.co.comal.tx.us/Health.htm

If you have any questions, please call Ken Schein at (830) 221-1150.

schein@co.comal.tx.us

ImmTrac stores immunization records for *any* Texan of *any* age



ImmTrac is the Texas immunization registry, a free service from the Texas Department of State Health Services (DSHS). It is a secure, confidential registry that electronically stores immunization histories for children, first responders, and adults. The valuable information entered into ImmTrac comes from a variety of sources: private health-care providers; public health clinics; Medicaid claims administrators; the Bureau of Vital Statistics; and Women, Infants and Children (WIC) clinics. Regardless of the number of sources, each client's immunization information is consolidated into one electronic record for safe storage.

Remember: 18 year olds, previously in the registry, must register again as adults to save their ImmTrac record.

ImmTrac's Informative Website

The Texas Department of State Health Services (DSHS) maintains a useful website dedicated to ImmTrac. Visitors to the site will be able to learn about ImmTrac, download forms, research current immunization schedules, learn how to register, and watch a short educational film. As an added feature, the designers of the site allow viewers to switch to Spanish, if needed. Take a look!



www.immtracforeveryone.com

ImmTrac contains over 73 million immunization records for more than 5.8 million Texans.

What is an ImmTrac Outreach Specialist ?

Would you like a free copy of your ImmTrac record?

Do you need assistance with adult registration?

Have you recently registered and need your ImmTrac record brought up to date?

Is your child's ImmTrac record missing some shots?

Comal County Public Health have two ImmTrac Outreach Specialists on staff that are here to assist you!

Jenna Robinson robinj@co.comal.tx.us

Maggie Moreno morenm@co.comal.tx.us

Or you can call them at 830-221-1150.

178 East Mill Street,
Suite 210
New Braunfels, TX 78130

Phone: 830-221-1150
Fax: 830-620-3495
Web: www.co.comal.tx.us/health

Prepare for Emergencies!

1. Prepare a kit of emergency supplies.
2. Make a plan.
3. Be informed. Learn how to best be prepared.



Remember to plan for your pets and for friends/family who have special needs.

www.fema.gov

Scheduling a Shot Clinic

Immunization clinics are very convenient. Instead of sending people out on their own to get a shot, Comal County Public Health can come to you!

Would your business, church, club, or special community event benefit from this service? We can send a team to your location to administer:

- Tetanus
- Flu shots
- Hepatitis A and/or B
- Tdap

Take advantage of this helpful service!

Call (830) 221-1150 for more information.

Minimum attendees required

Your Health Department Offers...

**Call For an
Appointment
Monday-Friday
(830) 221-1150
8am- 12 & 1-5pm**



- Blood Pressure Monitoring
- Response to vaccinations and titers
- HIV/AIDS information
- Screening for TB exposure
- HIV Testing
- Testing for Hepatitis B & C
- Referrals for medical/social needs
- Confidential STD counseling
- Adult Flu clinics
- Health Fair participation
- Community Education
- Blue Cross/Blue Shield Provider for immunizations.
- Immunizations for local businesses
- Pregnancy testing

**Bulverde Satellite
Clinic**

**2nd Friday of every
month**

By appointment only

(830)221-1150

Minimum attendees required