

**DFW-APIC Government Affairs Committee  
December-January 2022/2023**

**APIC Public Policy and E-News Highlights (2022-2023)**

<http://cqrcengage.com/apic/home>

<https://apic.org/publications/enews/>

11/13/22	<p>AHRQ Issues Report on IPC for EMS and 911 Workforce The Evidence-based Practice Center (EPC) Program at the Agency for Healthcare Research and Quality (AHRQ) completed an evidence review on <a href="#">Infection Prevention and Control for the Emergency Medical Services (EMS) and 911 Workforce</a>. APIC provided input to this study. Key findings include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Emergency medical service (EMS) workers appear to be at higher risk of infection when compared to firefighters and other frontline emergency personnel.</li> <li>• Research into the field effectiveness of N95 respirator and surgical face mask personal protective equipment (PPE) is limited, especially in the arena of airborne diseases.</li> <li>• Regular hand hygiene decreases the spread of methicillin-resistant <i>Staphylococcus aureus</i> (MRSA).</li> <li>• Mandatory influenza vaccine programs increase the likelihood of vaccine uptake.</li> </ul>
11/29/22	<p><a href="#">FDA Authorizes New COVID Tests</a></p>
12/1/22	<p><a href="#">CDC Updates and Posts Core Infection Prevention and Control Practices</a></p> <p><a href="#">FDA Updates Guidance on Fecal Transplant</a></p> <p><a href="#">COVID-19 disruptions in HIV testing and prevention highlight need for innovation and investment before the next public health emergency – CDC update 12/1/22</a></p> <p><a href="#">Effectiveness of Bivalent mRNA Vaccines in Preventing Symptomatic SARS-CoV-2 Infection — Increasing Community Access to Testing Program, United States, September–November 2022 – CDC update 12/1/22</a></p>
12/7/22	<p><b>CDC Releases Report and Recommendations on Multiuse Ultrasound Gel</b> CDC published an investigation of a cluster of <i>Burkholderia stabilis</i> (<i>B.stabilis</i>) infections in MMWR. The article, <a href="#">Outbreak of Burkholderia stabilis Infections Associated with Contaminated Nonsterile, Multiuse Ultrasound Gel — 10 States, May–September 2021   MMWR (cdc.gov)</a>, reports on a cluster of eight invasive infections among hospitalized patients in 2021 that were traced to use of nonsterile ultrasound gel, resulting in a national recall of all ultrasound gel products produced by Eco-Med Pharmaceuticals. <a href="#">Read more.</a></p>
12/7/22	<p><b>CDC: Travelers Returning to U.S. with Cholera</b> Thus far in 2022, eight travelers with cholera have returned to the United States from Pakistan, Iraq, and Bangladesh. Clinicians evaluating patients with acute onset of watery diarrhea should obtain a travel history, consider cholera in patients returning from affected regions, obtain a stool specimen for testing, and begin prompt treatment. Without treatment, death can occur within hours. <a href="#">Read more.</a></p>
12/20/22	<p><a href="#">GAO Releases New Study on Outbreaks of COVID-19 in LTC – Update 12/19/22</a></p>

**Texas Register (2022-2023)**

<http://www.sos.state.tx.us/texreg/index.shtml>

**Key: X Pending**

**Last Review Completed: 12/30/2022**

**Current Search Parameters**

**for Review:**

25 TAC: Chapters 2, 97, 133,  
135, 200

30 TAC: Chapter 330;  
Subchapter Y

X	Date Filed	Action	Title/Ch./Rules/SB/HB	Topic / Comments
	1/26/22	Adopted	TAC25/Chapter 97	The Executive Commissioner of the Texas Health and Human Services Commission (HHSC), on behalf of the Department of State Health Services (DSHS), adopts an amendment to §97.7, concerning COVID-19 school exclusion criteria
	9/9/22	Adopted	25 TAC §133.51	Regarding in-person visitation during a Public Health Emergency or Disaster: Establishes guidelines for certain health care facilities, including hospitals and special care facilities, to use when developing policies and procedures for in-person religious counselor visitation. Requires a hospital to permit, except under certain circumstances, in-person visitation with hospital patients during a qualifying period of disaster and allows the hospital to condition this visitation upon compliance with certain authorized health and safety measures.
	11/15/22	proposed	25 TAC §133.53	Requires hospitals licensed under Texas Health and Safety Code Chapter 241 to disclose price information and maintain & make publicly available a list of standard charges for certain hospital items and services. Includes publishing the list or a link to the list in a prominent location on the home page of the hospital's website.

**Prepared by 2023 APIC-DFW Governmental Affairs Committee:  
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