

**DFW-APIC Government Affairs Committee  
March 2021**

**APIC Public Policy and E-News Highlights (2021-2022)**

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

<http://apic.org/Member-Services/Publications/E-News>

2/22/21	The U.S. FDA issued guidances for medical product developers, specifically covering vaccine, diagnostic and therapeutic products, to address the emergence and potential future emergence of variants of SARS-CoV-2. Read the <a href="#">FDA statement</a> .
2/25/21	The FDA revised requirements for storage and transportation of the Pfizer-BioNTech COVID-19 vaccine to allow undiluted frozen vials to be transported and stored at conventional temperatures commonly found in pharmaceutical freezers for a period of up to two weeks. This reflects an alternative to the preferred storage of the undiluted vials in an ultra-low temperature freezer between -80°C to -60°C (-112°F to -76°F). Read the updated <a href="#">Fact Sheet for Healthcare Providers Administering Vaccine</a> .
3/2/21	The CDC is advising healthcare personnel that outbreaks of Ebola virus disease (EVD) are ongoing in the Democratic Republic of the Congo (DRC) and Guinea. CDC is providing this communication as a reminder to U.S. healthcare personnel about CDC infection prevention and control guidance for identifying and managing patients with possible and confirmed EVD. Personnel are asked to share this information with all personnel who might conduct screening and triage activities or be responsible for initial clinical management of patients (e.g., including Emergency Medical Services, outpatient, and emergency department personnel).
3/5/21	The FDA is alerting healthcare providers and consumers that thermal imaging systems intended to measure human body temperature may provide inaccurate temperature readings when not used properly. These devices are also known as telethermographic systems, infrared thermographs, thermal cameras, and “fever cameras.” The accuracy of these systems depends on careful set-up and operation, as well as proper preparation of the person being evaluated. Customers and health care providers who use thermal imaging systems should be aware of their limitations and the proper and improper use of these systems. Read the <a href="#">FDA safety alert</a> .
3/10/21	The Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services (CMS), in collaboration with the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC), issued updated guidance for nursing homes to safely expand visitation options during the COVID-19 pandemic public health emergency (PHE). Revisions reflect administration of millions of doses of COVID-19 vaccines, but emphasize the importance of maintaining infection prevention practices, given the continued risk of COVID-19 transmission. Read the <a href="#">updated CMS guidance memo</a> . Read the <a href="#">CMS fact sheet</a> about the revisions.
3/10/21	CDC has updated select healthcare infection prevention and control recommendations in response to COVID-19 vaccination. These recommendations may be adapted by state and local health departments to respond to rapidly changing local circumstances. Updated recommendations include those related to nursing home visitation, work restrictions for asymptomatic HCP, SARS-CoV-2 testing, and PPE use. Read the <a href="#">updated CDC recommendations</a> .
3/11/21	As COVID-19 incidence and caseloads across the country are decreasing, beginning March 15, 2021, The Joint Commission will return to its usual pre-pandemic procedures, including unannounced onsite surveys. <a href="#">Read more</a> .

**Texas Register (2021-2022)**

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

Key: X Pending

**Last Review Completed:** 3/6/2021

**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/H B	Topic / Comments
	3/1/21	<i>Referred to Public Health</i>	<b>HB 591</b>	Requires vaccination against bacterial meningitis for public school students