DFW-APIC Government Affairs Committee
October-November 2022

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

http://cqrcengage.com/apic/home
https://apic.org/publications/enews/

9/2/22	Following FDA emergency use authorization, the CDC is recommending updated COVID-19 booster vaccines. The bivalent vaccine provides protection against the omicron BA.4 and BA.5 variants as well as the original COVID-19 strain. The updated Pfizer-BioNTech vaccine is authorized for people ages 12 and older and the Moderna vaccine is authorized for people ages 18 and older. The booster is administered as a single dose at least two months after completing the primary series or receiving the most recent booster. Read the CDC statement.
9/28/22	**GAO Releases IPC Report for Nursing Homes** As part of the CARES Act, the Government Accountability Office (GAO) released a report focused on infection prevention and control (IPC) in nursing homes during the pandemic. The report made several recommendations to the Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services (CMS) to help protect residents and healthcare professionals from infection. Specifically, the report called for established minimum training standards for infection preventionist (IP) training standards, collecting data to determine if current IP staffing requirements are sufficient, and for CMS to provide additional guidance in the State Operations Manual on making scope and severity determinations for IPC-related deficiencies. **Read more**.
10/5/22	**FDA updates COVID-19 Test Approval Policy** The FDA updated its COVID-19 test approval policy to transition from emergency use authorizations (EUA) to traditional premarket review pathways. Since the beginning of the pandemic, the FDA has accelerated its approval process to ensure sufficient access to COVID-19 tests. **Read more**.
10/12/22	**FDA Issues EUA For Monkeypox Detection Test** The FDA issued an **Emergency Use Authorization (EUA)** to Abbott Molecular, Inc., for the Alinity m MPXV, a real-time polymerase chain reaction (PCR) test intended to detect monkeypox DNA using lesion swab specimens from individuals suspected of monkeypox virus infection. The Alinity m MPXV test is the first commercial test kit to be authorized for detection of monkeypox. The Alinity m MPXV test is intended for use by qualified and trained clinical laboratory personnel specifically instructed and trained in the techniques of PCR and in vitro diagnostic procedures.
10/12/22	**FDA Expands Authorization for COVID-19 Bivalent Boosters** The FDA has amended the emergency use authorizations (EUAs) of the Moderna COVID-19 Vaccine, Bivalent and the Pfizer-BioNTech COVID-19 Vaccine, Bivalent to authorize their use as a single booster dose in younger age groups. The Moderna Booster is authorized for administration at least two months following completion of primary or booster vaccination in children down to six years of age. The Pfizer-BioNTech COVID-19 Vaccine, Bivalent is authorized for administration at least two months following completion of primary or booster vaccination in children down to five years of age. **Read more**.
10/19/22	**CDC Warning Regarding Unsafe Specimen Collection** CDC has reported at least three US healthcare personnel have acquired monkeypox infection from sampling lesions while using a sharp instrument. CDC does not recommend healthcare personnel to unroof, open, or aspirate monkeypox lesions with sharps to increase sample yield. Click here for more information. **Click here** for more information.
10/19/22	**CDC Report Shows Inequities Found in Flu Vaccine Uptake** According to a new **CDC Vital Signs report**, Black, Hispanic, and American Indian/Alaska Native (AI/AN) adults in the US are more likely to be hospitalized with flu, as well as less likely to be vaccinated. There are many reasons for disparities in severe outcomes of flu, including lack of access to health care and insurance, missed opportunities to vaccinate, and misinformation and distrust that contribute to lower levels of confidence in vaccines.

Texas Register (2022-2023)

http://www.sos.state.tx.us/texreg/index.shtml **Key: X Pending**

Last Review Completed: 10/28/2022

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.

Prepared by 2022 APIC-DFW Governmental Affairs Committee:
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