

ImmTrac, the Texas immunization registry, is a free service offered by the Texas Department of State Health Services (DSHS). ImmTrac is a secure and confidential registry available to all Texas children less than 18 years old. ImmTrac safely consolidates and stores a child's immunization information electronically in one centralized system. Texas law requires written parental consent for ImmTrac participation, and limits access to the Registry to only those individuals who have been authorized by State law. ImmTrac currently contains over 69 million immunization records for over 5.7 million Texas children.

Parental Consent

ImmTrac is an "opt-in" registry, and a parent must choose for their child to participate in ImmTrac. Written consent from a parent, legal guardian or managing conservator is required for a child's immunization information to be included in ImmTrac. Written consent for participation is required one time. Consent may be given at any time and is valid until the child turns 18 years of age. Parents are also given the option to grant consent or request exclusion for their newborn baby's participation during the birth registration process. A parent may also withdraw consent and request removal of their child's record from ImmTrac at any time.

Current Texas Law

On January 1, 2005, DSHS implemented the legislative requirements of House Bill 1921 (78th Legislature). Texas law mandates that all health care providers must report all vaccines administered to a child less than 18 years of age to ImmTrac within 30 days of administering the vaccine. Third-party payors (insurance companies, health maintenance organizations, etc.) must report immunization information within 30 days of receipt of the information from a provider. Prior to including a child's immunization information in the Registry, DSHS shall verify that parental consent has been granted for that child's participation in ImmTrac.

New Legislation Impacts First Responders

Effective September 1, 2007, new legislation (Senate Bill 11, 80th Legislature) permits inclusion of immunization records for first responders (18 year or older) and their immediate family members. This change allows first responders and their adult family members to request inclusion of their immunization records in ImmTrac. First responders and their immediate family members must also provide written consent to participate in ImmTrac. This new functionality was implemented on September 17, 2008.

ImmTrac Benefits

ImmTrac offers many benefits to health care providers, families, and first responders. ImmTrac offers health care providers easy access to the same immunization information on their patients via the Internet. A patient's past, current and future immunization information is consolidated from multiple sources into one electronic record. ImmTrac interprets the complex immunization schedules and allows providers to send *Reminder* or *Recall* notices for immunizations due or overdue. The Registry helps providers ensure that children receive age appropriate and timely vaccinations, reducing the added costs associated with over-vaccinating children.

For parents, ImmTrac consolidates a child's immunization information from multiple providers into one centralized system, reducing the need to maintain several individual immunization records. ImmTrac keeps a child's vaccine schedule up-to-date and ensures important vaccines are not missed. In addition, a child's ImmTrac immunization record is available to parents from their child's provider, DSHS health service region or local health department, and is recognized as an *official* immunization record that meets school, camp, and child-care facility entry requirements.

For first responders, ImmTrac consolidates and securely stores all immunizations in one centralized system, reducing the need to maintain several individual immunization records. ImmTrac provides easy access to immunization histories during response efforts throughout the state of Texas as well as ensures first responders are protected from communicable diseases they could be exposed to when responding to an emergency. The Registry also provides the opportunity for the immediately family members of first responders to participate in ImmTrac.

ImmTrac Contact Information

To obtain more information about ImmTrac, please contact the DSHS Immunization Branch's public information program at (800) 252-9152. You may also contact us by e-mail at ImmTrac@dshs.state.tx.us or visit the Immunization Branch website at www.ImmunizeTexas.com.