



# COMMISSIONERS COURT COMMUNICATION

REFERENCE NUMBER \_\_\_\_\_

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DATE: 08/06/2024

**SUBJECT: APPROVAL TO SUBMIT VENDOR INFORMATION FORM TO THE  
DEPARTMENT OF STATE HEALTH SERVICES FOR SHARING  
SYNDROMIC SURVEILLANCE DATA**

**\*\*\* CONSENT AGENDA \*\*\***

**COMMISSIONERS COURT ACTION REQUESTED**

It is requested that Commissioners Court approve the submittal of the Vendor Information form to the Department of State Health Services (DSHS) for sharing syndromic surveillance data.

**BACKGROUND**

Tarrant County Public Health (TCPH) collects syndromic surveillance data which includes near real time data on Emergency Department (ED) visits and Emergency Medical Services (EMS) responses as a part of the North Texas Syndromic Surveillance (NTXSS) Program. Syndromic surveillance provides public health officials with a timely system for detecting, understanding, and monitoring health events. Syndromic surveillance data serves as an early warning system for public health concerns. The ability to receive and monitor syndromic surveillance data is vital to both public health and hospitals. This capability allows all functional areas to make data-driven decisions. Hospitals are required to submit syndromic surveillance data to public health under the Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services (CMS), Promoting Interoperability Program.

TCPH receives grant funds from DSHS to support onboarding hospitals, assess and control the quality of the data, maintain the syndromic surveillance system, Electronic Surveillance System for the Early Notification of Community-based Epidemics (ESSENCE) and train the users in Public Health Region 2/3 to better use syndromic surveillance for outbreak detection and situational awareness. Additionally, the grant requires TCPH to share the syndromic surveillance data with DSHS to support statewide surveillance activities.

On July 18, 2017, the Commissioners Court, through Court Order #125644, approved a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) between Tarrant County and DSHS to share syndromic surveillance data.

With approval, Tarrant County will submit the Vendor Information Form to DSHS to begin the renewal process for the current MOU for the continuation of shared syndromic surveillance data.

The Criminal District Attorney's Office has approved this document as to form.

**FISCAL IMPACT**

There is no fiscal impact for this item.

SUBMITTED BY:	Public Health	PREPARED BY: APPROVED BY:	Rasneet Kumar Dr. Brian Byrd
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