

PRESS RELEASE

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Public health announces changes in availability of low-cost vaccines

(Tarrant County, Texas) ... Due to funding and policy changes by the Texas Department of State Health Services (DSHS), the availability of low-cost vaccines at Tarrant County Public Health Centers is limited. Effective Feb. 1, clients will be screened for health insurance immunization coverage before receiving immunization services. People eligible to receive immunizations at Tarrant County Public Health Centers are:

- Children with Medicaid
- Children with the Children's Health Insurance Program (CHIP)
- American Indians
- Alaskan Natives
- Clients who are underinsured or uninsured

As defined by the DSHS, underinsured denotes: 1) commercial (private) health insurance, but coverage does not include vaccines; or 2) insurance covers only selected vaccines (Texas Vaccines For Children-eligible for non-covered vaccines only); or 3) insurance caps vaccine coverage at a certain amount. Once that coverage amount is reached, the child is categorized as underinsured.

People with private health insurance coverage, which should include immunizations, will be referred to their primary health-care provider.

"Recently, some health insurance providers have included more preventive services in their plans," said Ann Salyer-Caldwell, associate director at Tarrant County Public Health. "People should check with their insurance provider to find out if the inclusion applies to their coverage."

For more information, call 817-321-5311.