

Health Wise Quarterly

Brought to you by the friendly staff at your

Environmental Health Services Division



Environmental Health Services Division (EHSD) offers monthly Food Safety Presentations from 3:00PM - 4:30PM. Trainings are held at Rutherford Lane Campus [1520 Rutherford Lane, Building 1, Suite 205](#) Interested in attending? Register by phone 512-978-0300 or via email: EHSD.service@austintexas.gov

April 17, 2018	Requirements for Starting a Food Enterprise and the Inspection Process
May 15, 2018	Requirements and Processes for Submitting a Hazard Analysis Critical Control Point (HACCP)
June 19, 2018	Temporary Events and Mobile Vendor Inspections

TIRE DRIVE

On Saturday, April 14, 2018, Austin Public Health in collaboration with Austin Resource Recovery, Travis County, and other community partners, will host an inaugural Tire Take Back Day at multiple sites throughout the city.

Tire Take Back Day is an outreach event designed to collect unused tires from residents of Austin and Travis County and educate the public about:

- ✓ Mosquito control and prevention
- ✓ Diseases spread by mosquitoes, e.g. Zika and West Nile Virus
- ✓ Recycling opportunities offered by Austin Resource Recovery

Residents of Austin and Travis County can bring up to 8 passenger tires to one of the locations throughout Travis County. Locations will be announced as the event approaches.



If you have more questions, please contact Austin Public Health Emergency Preparedness at APH.Preparedness@austintexas.gov



National Public Health Week is April 2-8, 2018

[Public health is the science of protecting](#) and improving the health of families and communities through promotion of healthy lifestyles, research for disease and injury prevention and detection and control of infectious diseases. Overall, public health is concerned with protecting the health of entire populations. Public health professionals try to prevent problems from happening or recurring through implementing educational programs, recommending policies, administering services and conducting research.

EHSD coordinates public health efforts through several programs in Austin and Travis County. EHSD conducts plan reviews, permitting, inspections, complaint investigations, compliance action, surveillance/monitoring and public health education activities relating to all establishments that offer or store any type of food or beverage. EHSD also conducts investigations into foodborne illness, custodial care facilities, public swimming pools, animal enclosures, public health nuisances, Austin's smoking ordinance, water contact recreation sampling, and rodent and vector control.

The 2018 National Public Health Week's goal is: [Healthiest Nation 2010 Changing our Future Together](#)

Austin Public Health's National Public Health Week Activities

National Public Health Week, April 2-8, offers a perfect opportunity to engage the community in ways to better understand the importance of public health in our lives. From prenatal care to immunizations, to the food we eat, to the places we play, to infant seats and bike helmets--public health protects us every day.

"The goal of National Public Health Week is to raise awareness of public health's critical role in ensuring we have the healthiest community and nation," said Stephanie Hayden, Interim Director of Austin Public Health.

Public health professionals work to protect every resident from infectious diseases and environmental threats and educate us about the benefits of healthy behaviors to avoid chronic diseases. Public health surveillance in both human and animal populations as well as preparedness programs play a key role in emergency responses to natural disasters such as hurricanes or a potential disease outbreak.

To raise awareness, Austin Public Health has planned the following activities:

Austin Public Health exhibits, information and health screenings

301 W 2nd Street, 78701

Thursday, March 22

9 am- 6 pm

Austin Public Health exhibits and information at Farmers' Markets

Saturday, April 7th 9am- 12 noon

Downtown - 422 Guadalupe Street, 78701

Sunset Valley -3200 Jones Road, 78745

City of Austin Proclamation Presentation-Austin City Hall

301 W 2nd Street, 78701

Thursday, March 22 (5:30 pm)

Travis County Proclamation Presentation- County Commissioners Court

700 Lavaca Street, 78701

Tuesday, March 27 (11 am)

To find out more about our programs and services, please visit our website at www.austinpulichealth.gov

Environmental Health Services Division

Fiscal Year 2017 Annual Report

The Environmental Health Services Division proud to announce the release of the Fiscal Year 2017 Annual Report. This report describes in detail Environmental Health's duties, roles, and outcomes for fiscal year 2017. Take a moment to check out what Environmental Health is all about and what we achieved in Fiscal Year 2017. It is our second annual report and it is our goal to continue providing this information to our City and County Leaders as well as the public.



OFFICES CLOSED! Plan Accordingly. EHSD will be CLOSED on:

- * Wednesday, May 9th for EHSD Staff Appreciation Event starting at 10 AM
 - * Monday, May 28th for Memorial Day
- * Wednesday, July 4th for American Independence Day
 - * Monday, September 3rd for Labor Day



Healthy and Safe Swimming Week May 21 – 27, 2018

Formerly known as Recreational Water Illness and Injury (RWII) Prevention Week, the week before Memorial Day has been designated National Healthy and Safe Swimming Week. It focuses on the role of swimmers, aquatics and beach staff, residential pool owners, and public health officials in preventing drowning, pool chemical injuries, and outbreaks of illnesses. It highlights swimmer hygiene and the need for swimmers to take an active role in helping to protect themselves and prevent the spread of germs. These messages are reinforced by [health promotion materials](#) to educate the public on how to prevent recreational water illnesses (RWIs).



What are RWIs? Recreational water illnesses (RWIs) are caused by germs spread by swallowing, breathing in mists or aerosols of, or having contact with contaminated water in swimming pools, hot tubs, water parks, water play areas, interactive fountains, lakes, rivers, or oceans. RWIs can also be caused by chemicals in the water or chemicals that evaporate from the water and cause indoor air quality problems. Diarrhea is the most common RWI, and it is often caused by germs like Crypto (short for *Cryptosporidium*), *Giardia*, norovirus, *Shigella*, and *E. coli* O157:H7. Other common RWIs include skin, ear, respiratory, eye, neurologic, and wound infections. Children, pregnant women, and people with weakened immune systems are most at risk for RWIs. More information about RWIs can be found on the [Basics of RWIs](#) page.

SXSW and Mobile Food Vendors

The 2018 Spring Festival Season and SXSW are here along with the demand for quick and safe food sources. Remember all food vendors must operate under a health permit. There is only one very specific setup which is exempt from needing a health permit: prepackaged, non-temperature controlled for safety (TCS) foods which are served from a tent or table setup (i.e. individual bags of chips). Mobile vending licenses do not transfer, so if you rent your truck out to a third party, they must obtain a temporary event permit or their own mobile vending permit. Failure to do so may include loss of your mobile vending permit and/or legal charges. Expect a strong APH inspection presence during the SXSW dates March 9-18 including our partner agencies: TABC, Code, Fire, Police, Right-of-Way, and TX Comptroller's Office.

For more information contact [Lori Murphy, R.S.](#) at 512-978-0306.



Arlene Johnson Photo Credit



April - June 2018



LEGAL COMPLIANCE INFORMATION

OPTIONS FOR HANDLING LEGAL CASES



OH NO! A legal case has been filed against me by Environmental Health Services!

What do I do? What are my options?



The first thing a defendant should do is to respond to the notice from the court. Once a hearing date is set on the court docket, the defendant is required to appear in court. Contact the court directly if there is an availability issue or for information on resolving the case without appearing in court.

During the appearance court hearing the following options will be offered to a defendant:



TRIAL BY JUDGE OR TRIAL BY JURY?

- By entering a plea of “not guilty” the outcome of a case will be decided by a judge or the citizens of Austin and Travis County.
- Trials can last a couple of hours or up to an entire day. The oldest case on the docket is usually tried first. If a defendant's case is not the oldest, it will be reset for another date.
- *Fine and court cost may be assessed, depending on the outcome of the case.*



PLEAD NO CONTEST= GUILTY CONVICTION

- By entering a plea of “no contest,” a defendant is waiving a trial by judge or jury.
- A guilty conviction is entered to the court and the conviction is reported to the Department of Public Safety.
- *Fine and court cost may be assessed.*



DEFERRED DISPOSITION

- The court may offer the option to “defer” or postpone the disposition of a case and place the defendant on probation for a specified period of time.
- During the deferral period, the defendant must comply with the terms and conditions of the deferral. Terms vary.
- If a defendant successfully complies with the terms of the deferral in the timeframe ordered by the Court, the case will be dismissed.
- If any requirements are not met and a defendant cannot provide a satisfactory reason why, at a hearing before a judge, the defendant may be found guilty and the conviction is reported to the Department of Public Safety.
- *Fine and court cost may be assessed.*



FARMERS MARKETS

Farmers Markets are a **BIG** thing in Central Texas! If you are thinking of visiting one of these eclectic, vibrant markets then begin with finding the official list of Certified Farmers Markets on the [Texas Department of Agriculture's website](#).

If one visit isn't enough and you want to become a vendor of consumable food or beverages then Austin Public Health can help with that! To begin, contact the market you are interested in participating with. Once you've chosen your market locations, then complete the [Farmers Market Permit Application](#) with Austin Public Health.

There are 3 types of permits that you could obtain. Class A is the *pre-packaged food* permit. Class B is the *Sampling* permit. Class C is the *cooking and open food handling* permit. Vendors that are selling only eggs may apply for a fee-exempt class A permit. Vendors that are selling only whole, uncut, raw agricultural product are exempt from requiring a permit. These whole fruits and vegetables are only allowed a single harvest cut to qualify for the permit exemption. Once the melons, tomatoes, or cut leafy greens are sliced into then they require refrigeration and a Farmers Market permit is needed.

Cottage Food Production Operations are also exempt from the permitting requirements and thus may not get a permit from Austin Public Health. To learn more about the Cottage Food law you can visit the [Texas Department of State Health Services website](#).

We look forward to seeing you out at the Farmers Markets in Bee Caves, Austin, Travis County and Sunset Valley! If you have any questions about Farmers Markets, please call Supervisor [Lori Murphy, R.S.](#) at 512-978-0306.



It is Spring! Remember to keep grass cut short and empty containers of water. Tall weeds and grass can be a harborage for rodents, insects, and stagnant water. All of which pose a threat to the public's health. Check out these resources to learn more about public health nuisances:

[Travis County Code Public Nuisances](#)

[Austin Code Department](#)

[Texas Health and Safety Code](#)



ENVIRONMENTAL HEALTH SERVICES DIVISION CUSTOMER WALK IN HOURS

Lobby Hours Rutherford Lane Campus 1520 Rutherford Lane 7:45AM - 3:30PM Monday - Friday

One-Stop Shop 505 Barton Springs Road 8:00AM -12:00PM Monday - Friday

Mobile Vending Physical Permitting Inspections Rutherford Lane Campus
1520 Rutherford Lane 7:45 AM - 11:00AM Tuesday and Thursday



EHSD is partnering with Austin 3-1-1 to handle all citizen complaints and environmental investigations. To request services, get general assistance or submit a citizen complaint, dial 3-1-1 or 512-974-2000 if you are calling from outside the Austin service area.

If you feel an inspection issue or complaint investigation has not been satisfactorily addressed, or to speak with a manager regarding administrative issues, please call us directly at 512-978-0300 between the hours of 7:45AM - 4:45PM Monday - Friday.

Mailing Address: EHSD Post Office Box 142529, Austin, TX 78714

Physical Address: Rutherford Lane Campus 1520 Rutherford Lane Building 1 Suite 205 Austin, TX 78754

Email Address: EHSD.service@austintexas.gov

Web Address: <http://www.austintexas.gov/department/environmental-health-services>

Feedback: Please complete our online survey to help us better serve our customers: www.surveymonkey.com/s/EHSDSurvey

