

DFW-APIC Government Affairs Committee (GAC)

November 2008

2009 81ST LEGISLATIVE SESSION FOR TEXAS – IMPORTANT DATES

Monday, November 10, 2008 – Pre-file Bills

Tuesday, January 13, 2009 (1st day)

81st Legislature convenes at noon

[Government Code, Sec. 301.001]

Friday, March 13, 2009 (60th day)

Deadline for filing bills and joint resolutions other than local bills, emergency appropriations, and bills that have been declared an emergency by the governor

[House Rule 8, Sec. 8; Senate Rule 7.07(b)]

Monday, June 1, 2009 (140th day)

Last day of 81st Regular Session; corrections only in house and senate

[Sec. 24(b), Art. III, Texas Constitution]

Sunday, June 21, 2009 (20th day following final adjournment)

Last day governor can sign or veto bills passed during the regular legislative session

[Sec. 14, Art. IV, Texas Constitution]

Monday, August 31, 2009 (91st day following final adjournment)

Date that bills without specific effective dates (that could not be effective immediately) become law

[Sec. 39, Art. III, Texas Constitution]

NOTE: As of 11/10/08 (pre-filed bills) I will check the Texas Legislative Website for filed bill with IP&C content and provide monthly updates. To follow items between written reports please visit the website at <http://www.capitol.state.tx.us/> during the 81st legislative session for Texas.

TEXAS REGISTER:

- No PROPOSED rules since 10/01/08 verbal report
- ADOPTED Rule for MRSA surveillance Pilot Study based on law passed during last legislative session as summarized below as appeared in the 10/10/08 publication: This only applies to Potter County or Randall County shall report MRSA to the Health Authority appointed by the Amarillo Bi-City-County Public Health District, and this section expires 09/01/09.

Chapter 97. COMMUNICABLE DISEASES

Subchapter A. CONTROL OF COMMUNICABLE DISEASES

25 TAC §97.14

The Executive Commissioner of the Health and Human Services Commission, on behalf of the Department of State Health Services (department), adopts new §97.14 concerning a program for reporting methicillin-resistant *Staphylococcus aureus* (MRSA), a bacteria primarily associated with skin and soft tissue infections. The rule is adopted with changes to the proposed text as published in the March 28, 2008 issue of the *Texas Register* (33 TexReg 2653).

BACKGROUND AND PURPOSE

The new section is necessary to comply with House Bill (HB) 1082, 80th Legislature, Regular Session, 2007, (now codified in part as Health and Safety Code, §81.0445), which requires the department to conduct a pilot program for reporting MRSA. A health authority that demonstrates an interest and possesses the resources to conduct the program will manage the program.

The department is required to select a local health authority to administer the program. The program would require: (1) all clinical laboratories within the area served by the local health authority to report all cases of MRSA; (2) study the cost and feasibility of adding MRSA to the reportable disease list; (3) collect data related to the possible sources and preventions; (4) provide information about MRSA; and (5) compile and make available to the public a summary of the program. Not later than September 1, 2009, the department shall submit to the legislature a report concerning the effectiveness of the program in tracking and reducing the number of MRSA infections.

Prepared: Patti Grant; 2008 APIC DFW GAC Chair
2008 GAC Committee Members: Angela Vassallo, Co-Chair, Brian Blauser, and Rhonda Morgan