

**DFW-APIC Government Affairs Committee
April 2022**

APIC Public Policy and E-News Highlights (2022-2023)

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<https://apic.org/publications/enews/>

3/2/22	<p>White House Announces Vision to Improve Nursing Home Care During yesterday's State of the Union Address, President Biden announced nursing home reforms to improve the safety and quality of nursing home care, make the quality of care and facility ownership more transparent, and more. In response to reports that an overwhelming majority of nursing homes had an IPC deficiency, the White House plan includes strengthening requirements for on-site IPs. Read the White House fact sheet, and let your policymakers know that nursing homes need a full-time certified IP!</p>
3/2/22	<p>NIOSH Updates Respirator Approval Prioritization Beginning in February, NIOSH will give approval priority to applications for filtering air-purifying respirators that are produced in the United States. This includes filtering facepiece respirators (e.g., N95s) and powered air-purifying respirators (PAPRs). Read the NIOSH letter to manufacturers.</p>
3/9/22	<p>OSHA Temporarily Increases Focused COVID Inspections OSHA released an enforcement memorandum for a short-term increase in highly focused inspections directed at hospitals and skilled nursing care facilities that treat or handle COVID-19 patients. Please refer to the memorandum for inspection selection criteria and other information during this three-month initiative.</p>
3/9/22	<p>Tennessee Technical Coatings Recalls Hand Sanitizer Lots Tennessee Technical Coatings Corp. is voluntarily recalling all lots of hand sanitizer Isopropyl Alcohol Antiseptic 75% to the consumer/user level. FDA analysis has found the product to contain methanol. Read the FDA safety announcement.</p>
3/9/22	<p>B. Braun Recalls Sodium Chloride for Injection B. Braun Medical Inc., is voluntarily recalling five lots of 0.9% Sodium Chloride for Injection USP 250ML in Excel within the United States. The voluntary recall has been initiated due to fluid leakage or low fill volume of the respective containers. The biggest risk with a slow leak in any intravenous solution preparation is a break in sterility which poses a risk for the patient being exposed to a bacterial or fungal infection. Read the FDA recall notice.</p>
3/16/22	<p>CDC Issues Recommendations to Prevent CLABSI in NICU The CDC released new evidence-based recommendations for the prevention of CLABSI in NICU patients. Where evidence was insufficient for CDC to make a recommendation, companion guidance is available from the Society for Healthcare Epidemiology of America (SHEA).</p>
3/16/22	<p>New TFAH Report on State Emergency Preparedness Trust for America's Health (TFAH) released its annual evaluation of states' performance on ten key emergency preparedness indicators in Ready or Not 2022: Protecting the Public's Health from Diseases, Disasters, and Bioterrorism. The report identifies gaps in states' readiness to respond to emergencies and includes policy recommendations for strengthening the nation's health security.</p>
3/16/22	<p>Leapfrog Offers New Path to Meet Hand Hygiene Standard In response to public comments and feedback, The Leapfrog Group Hospital Survey announced that it will be offering an alternative path to meeting the organization's Hand Hygiene Standard. View the Summary of Changes to access detailed information about the hand hygiene standard as well as other standards and related algorithms.</p>
3/16/22	<p>HHS COVID-19 Test to Treat Initiative The HHS Office of the Assistant Secretary for Preparedness and Response (ASPR) released a fact sheet on the new nationwide COVID-19 Test to Treat initiative. In this program, people will be able to get tested and—if they are positive and treatments are appropriate for them—receive a prescription from a healthcare provider, and have their prescription filled all in one location.</p>
3/23/22	<p>Shortage of Prefilled Saline Flush Syringes In recognition of interruptions in the supply of prefilled 0.9% sodium chloride (saline) intravenous (IV) lock/ flush syringes, the FDA sent a letter to healthcare personnel that included recommendations,</p>

	including conservation strategies, to maintain the quality and safety of patient care. Read the FDA letter.
3/23/22	FDA Meeting in April to Discuss Future COVID-19 Boosters The FDA Vaccines and Related Biological Products Advisory Committee (VRBPAC) will meet on April 6 to discuss considerations for future COVID-19 vaccine booster doses and the process for selecting specific strains of the SARS-CoV-2 virus for COVID-19 vaccines to address current and emerging variants. Read the FDA announcement.
3/30/22	FDA and CDC Support Additional Booster for Some People The FDA authorized and CDC recommended an additional COVID-19 booster for adults age 50+ and immunocompromised people age 12+. The additional booster may be administered at least 4 months after the first booster. Read the FDA authorization and the CDC recommendation .
3/30/22	New AHRQ Decolonization Toolkit The Agency for Healthcare Research and Quality (AHRQ) developed a toolkit to help hospital infection prevention programs implement a decolonization protocol that was found to reduce bloodstream infections by more than 30 percent in adult inpatients who were not in ICUs and who had specific medical devices. It includes implementation instructions, demonstration videos, and customizable tools.
3/30/22	Plastikon Recalls Products Due to Microbial Contamination Plastikon Healthcare, LLC, is voluntarily recalling three lots of Milk of Magnesia 2400 mg/30 mL Oral Suspension, one lot of Acetaminophen 650mg/20.3mL, and six lots of Magnesium Hydroxide 1200mg/Aluminum Hydroxide 1200mg/Simethicone 120mg per 30 mL to the hospital, clinic, and patient level. The products are being recalled due to microbial contamination and failure to properly investigate failed microbial testing. Read the FDA recall announcement.

Texas Register (2022-2023)

http://www.sos.state.tx.us/texreg/index.shtml		Key: X Pending		
Last Review Completed: 4/1/2022 Current Search Parameters for Review: 25 TAC: Chapters 2, 97, 133, 135, 200 30 TAC: Chapter 330; Subchapter Y				
X	Date Filed	Action	Title/Ch./Rules/SB/HB	Topic / Comments
	1/26/22	Adopted	TAC25/Chapter 97	The Executive Commissioner of the Texas Health and Human Services Commission (HHSC), on behalf of the Department of State Health Services (DSHS), adopts an amendment to §97.7, concerning COVID-19 school exclusion criteria