



Zachary Thompson

Message from the director ...

More access to information and services our goal

Many of us have a lot on our plates these days. Time is valuable and our lives are often very hectic, with multiple priorities begging for our attention.

So, when it comes time to turn to government agencies for services, we want the experience to be thorough, but also prompt and easy.

In designing our website, we decided to focus on two things: efficiency and user-friendliness.

We sorted the content to find the most relevant topics and positioned them more prominently. We updated other features, as well.

We restructured our site by simplifying the organization of the information.

Our staff knows that our site is a vital asset to the community.

The audience that uses our site is not limited to employees or Dallas County residents.

Information that we post on our site is read by partnering agencies as well, at the state level and around the country.

Simply, our site is the world's window into our department and the services we provide for the citizens of Dallas County.

It's both an educational tool and a vital resource for community outreach.

We hope you enjoy the changes to the site and find it much more useful.



DCHHS launches enhanced website

NEW DESIGN HIGHLIGHTS MOST-USED FEATURES AND IMPROVES USER EXPERIENCE

NAVIGATION

Comprehensive toolbar

When deciding how to revamp the site for ease of use, the first thing that came to mind was navigation.

You'll notice that the site no longer has the main menu items on the left side of the web page. A horizontal toolbar, which has a more condensed and organized structure, has taken its place. DCHHS offers a range of services, many of which weren't readily promoted under the old format of the website.

The toolbar brings them front and center under two menu options: Client Services and Clinical Services.

This new arrangement helps you find the correct Web page with ease and speed.

Topic buttons

The incorporation of topic-specific buttons on our new homepage promotes other important information to the forefront.

Basic information such as DCHHS' telephone directory or Immunization clinic locations is now at your fingertips. Additionally, residents will find a button for the free county prescription discount card and energy assistance.

EDUCATION

Public health

An important aspect of public health is educating the community. Public health encompasses topics that can be complex and difficult to understand. Our new site takes this into account.

You'll find information about contagious diseases such as Methicillin-resistant Staphylococcus aureus (MRSA) or Cryptosporidiosis (crypto). Immediately below the description of the illness, you'll also find a section that tells you "WHAT YOU NEED TO KNOW ABOUT ..." that disease. It gets straight to the heart of your concerns about the illness: Is it contagious? How is it diagnosed? What is the treatment?

Informational material

The Web isn't the only place that people find information about their public health concerns. Sometimes the information comes to you! It could be in the form of a poster at the doctor's office, a flyer at a community center

or a bill insert that arrives in the mail.

Educational materials produced by DCHHS have been used by schools, daycares, nursing homes, churches, hospitals and other entities in our community. You'll find posters, flyers, brochures and more on our new site that help educate the public on a variety of topics, including: heat-related illnesses, flu, West Nile Virus and more.

TIME-SAVING FEATURES

Electronic mosquito complaint form

We know that if you had a choice of calling or e-mailing DCHHS, you'd probably prefer sending a quick message. That's why we've incorporated an electronic mosquito complaint form on our new site.

The short form takes less than a few minutes to fill out. You also have the option of being notified of the eventual investigation results. The mosquito abatement team will get the message quickly and you save yourself the time of placing a call (unless you want to).

User-friendly calendars

The new site not only posts the most up-to-date information, but it helps you plan for future events with the addition of calendars. Two important sections of the new site where this feature has been added are the Public Health Advisory Committee meetings page and the STD Clinics page.

Now, you'll be able to mark your calendar for the next PHAC meeting. Find out the latest in local public health from PHAC, a group which is made up of members and representatives from municipal health departments within the county.

Additionally, a calendar details where the mobile medical unit will be on any given day. This is an added feature to our site that will be beneficial for anyone searching for access to free STD testing in Dallas County.

COMMUNITY AWARENESS

Public Health Advisory Committee



DCHHS invites you to take a spin around our new site! Bookmark us, too! www.dallascounty.org/hhs