



HUMAN TRAFFICKING CME

COVID-19 VACCINE PREPARATION

FEDS WARNING: CYBERSECURITY

N95 MASK AVAILABILITY

ANNUAL MEMBERSHIP RENEWAL

It's that time of year again, time for membership renewal.

To renew your annual membership for 2021 and update your contact information, please access TMA's membership site at the link below.

We appreciate YOU!

RENEW NOW!

TMA LEGISLATIVE CME

"Strengthening Medicine in the 87th Texas Legislature"

Thursday, November 5th
6 pm via Zoom Meeting

During the 87th Texas legislative session, TMA will work with legislators to navigate budget challenges brought about by the COVID-19 pandemic. We will work to ensure nothing interferes with the patient physician relationship and that a physician will be there when Texas patients need them. Learn how you can help this effort, and how to participate in First Tuesdays at the Capitol advocacy events during the session. You can attend online using this link:

["Strengthening Medicine in the 87th Legislature"](#)

Call in Number: (346) 248-7799

Zoom Meeting ID: 934 08437752

Passcode: 371169

NEW CME REQUIREMENT

Human Trafficking in Texas

Human trafficking, also known as "modern-day slavery," is a global human rights atrocity that affects individuals of every age, nationality, gender, and sexual orientation. Although the media have directed more attention to the problem recently, forms of human trafficking have existed throughout human history. Satisfy your CME requirement with this course.

- **[Identifying Human Trafficking in Texas: What Physicians Need to Know](#)**

The Texas Medical Association Presents
STRENGTHENING MEDICINE IN THE 87TH TEXAS LEGISLATURE
Earn 1 AMA PRA Category 1 Credit™ With Ethics

ABOUT THE PROGRAM
During the 87th Texas legislative session, TMA will work with legislators to navigate budget challenges brought about by the COVID-19 pandemic. We will work to ensure nothing interferes with the patient-physician relationship and that a physician will be there when Texas patients need them.
Learn how you can help in this effort, and how to participate in First Tuesdays at the Capitol advocacy events during the session.

Presented By TMA Advocacy Staff or the TMA President, Diana Fite, MD

COURSE OBJECTIVES
• Describe TMA's legislative strategies that ensure an improved health care landscape for physicians and their patients;
• Identify the unique health care challenges Texas physicians and their patients continue to face;
• Discuss specific actions TMA is taking to address legislative issues on state and federal levels; and
• Implement steps that physicians and their patients can take to continue improving the health care system.

CONTINUING MEDICAL EDUCATION
The Texas Medical Association is accredited by the Accreditation Council for Continuing Medical Education (ACCME) to provide continuing medical education for physicians. TMA designates this live activity for a maximum of 1 AMA PRA Category 1 Credit™. Physicians should claim only the credit commensurate with the extent of their participation in the activity. The Texas Medical Association designates this activity for up to one hour in the area of ethics and/or professional responsibility education.

To schedule this presentation, contact Karen Kollar | karen.kollar@texmed.org





DSHS Urges Physicians to SIGN-UP NOW to Administer COVID-19 Vaccines

In a [joint video](#) released on October 14th, Texas Medical Association President Diana Fite, MD, and John Hellerstedt, MD, commissioner of the Texas Department of State Health Services (DSHS), urged physicians and medical facilities to enroll in

the [DSHS Immunization Program](#) in order to receive doses of and administer the COVID-19 vaccine.

So far, no COVID-19 vaccine has been licensed in the U.S. by the Food and Drug Administration. But health authorities have said one could be licensed as early as November, and a limited number of doses may be available soon, Imelda Garcia, associate commissioner of laboratory and infectious disease services at DSHS, told Texas Medicine Today. Read the whole article [here](#).

FEDS WARNING: Physician Cybersecurity

The FBI and two federal agencies are warning they have "credible information" that cyber criminals are taking new aim at health care providers and public health agencies as the COVID-19 pandemic reaches new heights.



"Malicious cyber actors" may soon be planning to "infect systems with Ryuk ransomware for financial gain" on a large scale across the health care system, and hospitals, physician practices, and public health organizations should take "timely and reasonable precautions to protect their networks from these threats," the organizations said in a joint advisory. Malware targeting techniques often lead to "ransomware attacks, data theft, and the disruption of healthcare services."

The agencies recommend several mitigation steps and [best practices](#) for health care entities to take to reduce their risk. You can also check out two new cybersecurity resources created by the [American Medical Association and American Hospital Association](#).

New Tools to Urge Flu Vaccinations

It's being labeled the "twindemic" - COVID-19 and flu. TMA's **"Be Wise - Immunize"** has a new resource to help you encourage your patients and community to get a flu vaccination.



A downloadable poster, with five flu facts, to stress the importance of flu vaccination - this year more than ever. The poster is available in [English](#) and [Spanish](#).



URGENT MESSAGE FROM CARTER BLOODCARE

Clint McCoy
Director of Operations

With the change from the FDA in regard to convalescent plasma usage under the EUA, and the requirements we have in regards to qualitative and quantitative (titer) testing coming soon, we have streamlined our process for donors to donate Convalescent Plasma. *We no longer require* donors to present a copy of their positive test for COVID-19 pre-register. Donors can enroll on their own and Carter Bloodcare will qualify their plasma through testing before releasing to hospitals.

To be eligible to donate convalescent plasma, an individual must have complete resolution of COVID-19 symptoms for 14 days and meet the regular blood donation guidelines.

Please consider this additional way to positively affect change for patients and help our community stay prepared for potential surges in the virus. Appointments can be made as follows:

1. Call 817-412-5830 or Text 800-366-2834
2. Email ConvalescentPlasma@CarterBloodCare.org
3. Self-schedule online at: www.carterbloodcare.org
4. WALK-IN to specific donor center locations - Appointments are encouraged!
5. Downloadable flyers are available in [English](#) and [Spanish](#).

Updated registration information is on our webpage:
www.carterbloodcare.org/plasma-doantions-for-treating-covid-19/

Tyler Donor Center Hours:
Monday/Thursday 11 am - 6:30 pm
Tuesday/Wednesday/Friday 9 am - 6 pm
Saturday 9 am - 2 pm



Need masks?

As a Smith County physician, you are eligible to receive N95 masks through SCMS. These masks have been provided from the Texas Division of Emergency Management through the TMA for distribution to Texas physicians in need **at no cost**. Please contact our office with your needs at smithcms@smithcomed.org.

WE'RE ON FACEBOOK!

Stay up to date on happenings and events by liking us on Facebook!

