

TARRANT COUNTY

NEWS & INFORMATION



February 2015



www.tarrantcounty.com

Flu Season is Not Over

The flu has taken its toll on residents of Tarrant County and North Central Texas. Reports of crowded hospitals and emergency departments have been numerous.

Flu is currently widespread in the county, and – though some data may show that the season has peaked in this area – flu season isn't over yet, neither here nor in other parts of the country. It isn't too late to get a flu shot, and shouldn't be put off any longer. A vaccine takes about two weeks to become fully effective, so the sooner you get the shot, the better. Almost everyone six months and older should be vaccinated against influenza every year.

Tarrant County Public Health offers vaccinations for \$25 at these public health centers:

**Arlington
Public Health Center**
536 W. Randol Mill Road
Arlington, 76011
817-548-3990

**Bagsby-Williams
Public Health Center**
3212 Miller Avenue
Fort Worth, 76119
817-531-6738

**La Gran Plaza Mall
Public Health Center**
4200 S. Freeway
Fort Worth, 76115
817-920-5752

**Northwest
Public Health Center**
3800 Adam Grubb Road
Lake Worth, 76135
817-238-4441

**Southwest
Public Health Center**
6551 Granbury Road
Fort Worth, 76133
817-370-4530

**Watauga
Public Health Center**
6601 Watauga Road, Suite 122
Watauga, 76148
817-514-5036

Free or reduced-cost flu shots may be available for qualified children (18 years or younger) through the Vaccines for Children Program. Seniors with Medicare Part B are eligible for a free flu shot.

Good hygiene habits also help prevent the flu. These habits include frequent hand washing; covering coughs and sneezes; avoiding touching your eyes, nose and mouth when you are sick; avoiding close contact with others who are sick; and staying at home if you are not well.

For more information on influenza and the flu in Tarrant County, check the Tarrant County Public Health website at <http://health.tarrantcounty.com>.

Texas Registration and Inspection Stickers are Partnering Up

Tarrant County is gearing up for a new Texas Two Step. Beginning March 1, the state will no longer issue vehicle inspection stickers and will move to a "Two Steps, One Sticker" program. Under the new system, Texas vehicle owners will need to pass inspection prior to renewing their registration. The familiar blue-bordered Texas Department of Motor Vehicles registration sticker will serve as proof of both inspection and registration.

The Tarrant County Tax Assessor-Collector's Office will make the transition as smooth as possible.

During the first year of the program all vehicle owners will need to do is make sure they already have a valid, passing vehicle inspection before they renew their registration at the Tax Office, online or by mail.

When vehicle owners renew their registration, the system will automatically verify whether the vehicle has a valid inspection. Without a passing inspection, the vehicle will not be eligible for registration renewal.

During the second year of the program beginning March 1, 2016, vehicles' inspection and registration expiration dates will align to the date that is on the registration sticker. Once the expiration dates are aligned in that second year, vehicle owners will have a convenient 90-day window to pass inspection first and then renew their registration before the end of the month listed on their sticker.

Once the 'Two Steps, One Sticker' program is fully implemented, Tarrant County residents will only have one sticker in the corner of their windshield and only one expiration date to worry about. Because a passing vehicle inspection will be a requirement to renew a vehicle registration, more vehicle owners will comply with inspection requirements leading to safer and more environmentally sound cars on Texas roads.

For more information go to the Tax Office website at <http://access.tarrantcounty.com/en/tax/motor-vehicle.html> or call 817-884-1100. Watch for updates on our website, www.facebook.com/TAC, and [@tarrantcotax](https://twitter.com/tarrantcotax).

District Clerk Offering Special Saturday hours on Passport Day

The Tarrant County District Clerk's Office is celebrating "Passport Day," a passport acceptance and outreach event by hosting five separate Passport Fairs on Saturday, March 7, from 10 a.m. until 3 p.m.

The events will be held at the following locations:

Southlake Sub-Courthouse
1400 Main Street, Ste 340
Southlake
(817-481-8190)

Arlington Sub-Courthouse
700 E. Abram Street, Ste 204
Arlington
(817-548-3963)

Southwest Sub-Courthouse
6551 Granbury Road
Fort Worth
(817-370-4570)

Northwest Sub-Courthouse
6713 Telephone Road
Lake Worth
(817-238-4457)

Mansfield Sub-Courthouse
1100 E. Broad Street
Ste 102, Mansfield
(817-473-5113)

As an authorized acceptance agent for the US Department of State, the Tarrant County District Clerk is holding these five Passport Fairs on a Saturday to provide a more convenient opportunity for individuals and families to receive passport information and apply for passports outside the normal Monday through Friday office hours.

As a reminder, U.S. citizens must present a valid passport book when entering or re-entering the United States by air. U.S. citizens entering the United States from Canada, Mexico, the Caribbean and Bermuda at land borders and sea ports of entry must present a valid passport book, passport card or other travel documents approved by the U.S. government.

For additional information, such as fees, options regarding the passport book versus the passport card, application requirements and where to obtain applications in advance, please contact any of the above participating offices or visit the District Clerk's website at www.tarrantcounty.com. Information is also available from the State Department at www.travel.state.gov.