

STATE OF TEXAS           §  
  §  
COUNTY OF HIDALGO    §

INTERLOCAL COOPERATION AGREEMENT BETWEEN THE  
COUNTY OF HIDALGO AND THE UNIVERSITY OF TEXAS RIO GRANDE VALLEY

THIS Agreement is made on this the 19<sup>th</sup> day of July 2016 by and between The University of Texas-Rio Grande Valley, hereinafter referred to as the “University,” and the COUNTY OF HIDALGO, TEXAS, herinafter referred to as the “County” pursuant to the provisions of the Texas Interlocal Cooperation Act, Texas Gov’t Code 791.001 et seq., as follows:

**WITNESSETH:**

**WHEREAS**, the University is an institution of higher education as defined by Texas Education Code Section 61.003(8) and is located in Hidalgo County, Texas;

**WHEREAS**, County is a county in the State of Texas;

**WHEREAS**, County is the recipient of a Public Health Preparedness and Response Grant from the Department of State Health Services which is to be used for upgrading local bioterrorism preparedness and response, outbreaks of infectious disease, and other public health threats and emergencies;

**WHEREAS**, the parties recognize the vulnerability of citizens in the County to a public health emergency that may result from natural or manmade causes;

**WHEREAS**, during such public health emergency, it may be necessary to immunize or treat a large number of people in the area served by the County Public Health Department;

**WHEREAS**, prior public health experience has shown that school facilities are well suited to conduct mass immunizations because school locations are known to large number of individuals, the facilities have large assembly areas and have other necessities such as refrigeration, parking, and restrooms;

**WHEREAS**, Mass Medical Readiness for public health response services can be exercised if necessary at the school facility; to include Drills, Table-Top Exercises, and/or Full Scale Exercises such as: Operation Lone Star.

**WHEREAS**, the University and County are authorized to enter into this Agreement pursuant to the Interlocal Cooperation Act, Texas Gov’t Code 791.001 et seq., which authorizes local governments to contract with institutions of higher education to perform governmental functions and services under the terms of the Act.

**NOW, THEREFORE,** the University and County, in consideration of the mutual covenants expressed hereinafter, agree as follows:

1. The provisions of the Agreement shall go into effect only if the Chief Administrative Officer of the County Public Health Department or the Commissioner of Health of the Department of State Health Services (“DSHS”) declare that a large-scale immunization or treatment is necessary as a control measure for an outbreak of a communicable disease and only if classes at the University are not disrupted or have been cancelled.
2. County agrees to supply all materials provided by Strategic National Stockpile (SNS) (vaccines, antibiotics, antitoxins, antivirals, syringes, etc) and forms necessary to administer during an emergency.
3. County shall be responsible for the disposal of medical waste.
4. County agrees to provide preparedness and response training at no cost to the University.
5. University agrees to participate in exercises, drills, and emergencies.
6. In a non-emergency declaration the University can provide medical services (injections, administer prophylaxis, provide medical care instructions) or non-medical services (assist with administrative duties such as registering patients, data entry, etc.). Just-In-Time training will be provided to the University by County.
7. University agrees to provide County with staff and students for on-site emergency operations to volunteer and assist with no expectancy of fiscal exchange.
8. Upon declaration of an emergency, the University shall assist County at which time this Agreement shall go into effect.
9. University agrees to submit to County an Incident Command System (ICS) Organization Chart derived from FEMA National Incident Management System (NIMS) for each event
10. The parties understand and agree that the services of “University” under this Interlocal Cooperation Agreement are related to Homeland Security, as it is defined in Local Government Code Section 421.001 and “University of Texas Rio Grande Valley ” which any or all related administrators, instructors, professors, and students shall be immune from civil liability for any act or omission resulting in death, damage or injury while acting in good faith and in the course and scope of its function to provide a service related to a Homeland Security Activity as defined in accordance with Government Code Section 421.062.
11. For purposes of this Agreement and in accordance with Government Code Section 421.062, “Homeland Security Activity” means any activity related to the prevention or discovery of, response to, or recovery from a terrorist attack, natural or man-made

disaster, hostile military or paramilitary action, or extraordinary law enforcement emergency.

12. **Term.** This Agreement becomes effective as of the day and year first written above. Either party may cancel it by giving thirty (30) days notice to the other party; otherwise it remains in effect until July 19, 2018 and may be renewed for a period of two years by written amendment signed by both parties. Any notice or communication required or permitted shall be given in writing.
13. **Conflict of Applicable Law.** Nothing in this Agreement shall be construed so as to require the commission of any act contrary to law, and whenever there is any conflict between and provision of their Agreement and any present or future law, ordinance, or administrative, executive or judicial regulation, order or decree, or amendment thereof, contrary to which the parties have no legal right to contract, the latter shall prevail, but in such event the affected provision or provisions of this Agreement shall be modified only to the extent necessary to bring them within the legal requirements and only during the time such conflict exists.
14. **No Waiver.** No waiver by any party hereto of any breach of any provision of the Agreement shall be deemed to be a waiver of any preceding or succeeding breach of the same or any other provision hereof.
15. **Entire Agreement.** This Agreement contains the entire contract between the parties hereto and each party acknowledges that neither has made (either directly or through any agent or representative) any representation or agreement in connection with this Agreement not specifically set forth herein. This Agreement may be modified or amended only by agreement in writing executed by the University and County, and not otherwise.
16. **Notice.** Except as may be otherwise specifically provided in this Agreement, all notices, demands, requests or communication required or permitted hereunder shall be in writing and shall either be (i) personally delivered against a written receipt, or (ii) sent by registered or certified mail, return receipt requested, postage prepaid and addressed to the parties at the addresses set forth below, or at such other addresses as may have been theretofore specified by written notice delivered in accordance herewith:

If to University:           The University of Texas-Rio Grande Valley  
  Attention: Office of the President  
  Martin Baylor  
  Executive Vice President for Finance and Administration  
  1201 W University Dr.  
  Student Services Building, 5.104  
  Edinburg, TX 78539

If to County:               Hidalgo County  
  Attention: Ramon Garcia, County Judge

302 W. University Drive  
Edinburg, TX 78539

Each notice, demand, request or communication which shall be delivered or mailed in the manner described above shall be deemed sufficiently given for all purposes at such time as it is personally delivered to the addressee or, if mailed, at such time as it is deposited in the United States mail.

17. **Texas Law To Apply.** To the extent authorized by the Constitution and the laws of the State of Texas, UTRGV shall indemnify and hold harmless Hidalgo County, its elected officials, employees and agents from any and all claims, damages, losses, and expenses including attorney's fees for the defense of any action against Hidalgo County arising out of, resulting from, or connected with acts or omissions by UTRGV, its agents or employees, under this Agreement.
18. **Immunities.** Neither Hidalgo County nor UTRGV, via this agreement, waive governmental immunity from suit, or from liability, except as expressly set forth by the Texas Legislature in the Texas Government Code. The fact that Hidalgo County and UTRGV have entered into this agreement shall not in any way, constitute a deliberate waiver of immunity by either entity, which immunities are expressly reserved by both parties.
19. **Successors.** This Agreement shall be binding upon and inure to the benefit of the parties hereto and their respective heirs, executors, administrators, legal representatives, successors, and assigns where permitted by this Agreement.
20. **Assignment.** This Agreement shall not be assignable.
21. **Headings.** The headings and captions contained in this Agreement are solely for convenience reference and shall not be deemed to affect the meaning or interpretation of any provision or paragraph hereof.
22. **Gender and Number.** All pronouns used in this Agreement shall include the other gender, whether used in the masculine, feminine or neuter gender, and singular shall include the plural whenever and as often as may be appropriate.
23. **Authority to Execute.** The execution and performance of this Agreement by University and County have been duly authorized by all necessary laws, resolutions or corporate action, and this Agreement constitutes the valid and enforceable obligations of University and County in accordance with its terms.
24. **Performance of Governmental Functions.** Each party hereto is entering into this Agreement for the purpose of providing for governmental services or functions and will

pay for such services out of current revenues available to the paying party as herein provided.

- 25. **Commitment of Current Revenues.** In the event that during any term hereof, the governing body of any party does not appropriate sufficient funds to meet the obligations of such party under this Agreement, then any party may terminate this Agreement upon ninety (90) days written notice to the other party. Each of the parties hereto agrees, however, to use its best efforts to secure funds necessary for the continued performance of this Agreement. The parties intend this provision to be a continuing right to terminate this Agreement at the expiration of each budget period of each party.

**WITNESS THE HANDS OF THE PARTIES effective as of the day and year first written above.**

**THE UNIVERSITY OF TEXAS RIO GRANDE VALLEY**

By: \_\_\_\_\_  
Havidan Rodriguez, Provost and VP  
Academic Affairs

By: \_\_\_\_\_  
Martin Baylor, Executive Vice  
President for Finance and  
Administration

**HIDALGO COUNTY, TEXAS**

By: \_\_\_\_\_  
Ramon Garcia, County Judge

**ATTEST:**

\_\_\_\_\_  
Arturo Guajardo, Jr., County Clerk

**APPROVED AS TO FORM:**

Office of Criminal District Attorney  
Ricardo Rodriguez, Jr.

By: \_\_\_\_\_  
Victor M. Garza  
Assistant District Attorney