

DEPARTMENT OF STATE HEALTH SERVICES

**MEMORANDUM OF UNDERSTANDING
DSHS MOU No. HHS001454300015**



This Memorandum of Understanding (MOU), is entered into between the **Texas Department of State Health Services (DSHS)**, **Hidalgo County Health and Human Services Department** the “Local Health Department” or “LHD”), who are collectively referred to herein as the “Parties.”

I. PURPOSE

The DSHS wastewater monitoring program works with local health departments and water utilities to track pathogens in wastewater and obtain high-quality, community-level data that helps protect public health in Texas. The program’s aim is to assess emerging or endemic microorganisms that cause disease by examining wastewater from distinct municipal sewersheds. Program activities shall be delivered in collaboration with the LHD.

II. AUTHORITY

The Parties enter into this MOU under the authority of the Texas Government Code Chapter 531 and the Texas Health and Safety Code Chapters 12 and 81.

III. LIAISONS AND NOTICES

The Parties will maintain designated liaisons during the entire term of the MOU. The Parties will communicate in writing any subsequent changes in liaison personnel. The names and contact information for the initial liaisons are as follows:

DSHS

Shonté Battle
Department of State Health Services
1100 West 49th Street
Austin, Texas 78756
Phone: 512-776-7761
Email: Shonte.Battle@dshs.texas.gov

Local Health Department

Eduardo Olivarez, Chief Administrative Officer
Hidalgo County Health & Human Services
Department
1304 S. 25th Avenue
Edinburg, Texas 78542
Phone: 956-383-6221
Email: Eduardo.olivarez@hchd.org

IV. LEGAL NOTICES

Legal notices under this MOU will be deemed effective when deposited either in the United States mail, postage paid, certified, return receipt requested; or with a common carrier, overnight, signature required, to the appropriate address below:

Department of State Health Services

1100 West 49th Street, MC 1911
Austin, Texas 78756
Attention: General Counsel

County of Hidalgo

Attn: County Judge
100 E. Cano, 2nd Floor
Edinburg, Texas 78539

With copy to:

Hidalgo County Health and Human Services Department

1304 S. 25th Avenue
Edinburg, Texas, 78542
Attn: Chief Administrative Officer

Notice given in any other manner shall be deemed effective only if and when received by the Party to be notified. Any Party may change its address for receiving legal notice by notifying the other Parties in writing.

V. TERM AND TERMINATION

This MOU shall become effective once signed by all Parties and will be valid for five years. The Parties hereby agree that any Party may terminate the MOU sooner upon giving 30 days' written notice to the other Parties.

This MOU may be terminated in the event that federal or state law should be amended or judicially interpreted so as to render continued fulfillment of this MOU, on the part of any Party, unreasonable or impossible.

VI. AMENDMENT

This MOU may not be amended, modified, or changed except by written agreement executed by the Parties.

SIGNATURE PAGE

DSHS MOU No. HHS001454300015

DEPARTMENT OF STATE HEALTH SERVICES

HIDALGO COUNTY HEALTH & HUMAN SERVICES

By:

By:

Signature of Authorized Representative

Signature of Authorized Representative
Eduardo Olivarez

Printed Name

Printed Name

Title

Title

Date of Signature

Date of Signature

**THE FOLLOWING ATTACHMENTS TO DSHS CONTRACT NO. HHS001454300015
ARE HEREBY INCORPORATED BY REFERENCE AND MADE A PART OF THIS MOU FOR ALL
PURPOSES:**

ATTACHMENT A

STATEMENT OF WORK – LOCAL HEALTH DEPARTMENT

Attachment A

Statement of Work – Local Health Department

I. Purpose

The Texas Department of State Health Services (DSHS) wastewater monitoring program works with local health departments and water utilities to track pathogens in wastewater and obtain high-quality, community-level data that helps protect public health in Texas. The program's aim is to assess emerging or endemic microorganisms that cause disease by examining wastewater from distinct municipal sewersheds. Program activities shall be delivered in collaboration with the Local Health Department (LHD).

Data may be used to:

1. Understand the spread of microorganisms throughout a community;
2. Detect outbreaks in communities;
3. Assess the effectiveness of prevention approaches;
4. Identify known variants of microorganisms; and
5. Identify emerging variants of microorganisms.

II. Roles and Responsibilities of DSHS

- A. Facilitate timely and complete communications and program activities among implementing partners.
- B. Establish microorganism targets as advised by the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention. Microorganism targets may change according to public health priorities.
 - a. Influenza A virus (IAV)
 - b. Influenza B virus (IBV)
 - c. Mpox virus
 - d. Norovirus
 - e. Respiratory syncytial virus (RSV)
 - f. Severe acute respiratory syndrome-associated coronavirus 2 (SARS-CoV-2)

- C. Develop a workplan in collaboration with the LHD that includes timelines for completing program activities listed in Section II(C)(a) – Section II(C)(d).
 - a. Wastewater sampling
 - i. Provide equipment and materials for wastewater sample collection.
 - ii. Prepare and maintain sampling equipment.
 - iii. Coordinate sample collection.
 - b. Wastewater analysis
 - i. Conduct quantitative wastewater analysis to detect pathogens.
 - ii. Conduct genomic sequencing to detect variant proportions of targeted pathogens in positive wastewater samples.
 - c. Wastewater data management
 - i. Coordinate wastewater data management to produce reliable, actionable, and high-quality data for public health action.
 - d. Wastewater data reporting
 - i. Report wastewater analysis results to the LHD.
 - ii. Develop or review knowledge translation products (e.g., publications, presentations, etc.).
- D. Develop site-specific data-to-action plans in collaboration with the LHD.
- E. Optimize protocols for data timeliness and quality, including minimizing time from sample collection to data reporting and maximizing quality of reported data.

III. Roles and Responsibilities of LHD

- A. Review and approve workplan in collaboration with DSHS.
- B. Review optimized protocols for data timeliness and quality, including minimizing time from sample collection to data reporting and maximizing quality of reported data.
- C. Develop site-specific data-to-action plans in collaboration with DSHS.

Certificate Of Completion

Envelope Id: 5156F8312EFA4BCDB59640288EBDD320	Status: Sent
Subject: HHS001454300015_Hidalgo County_MOU- Wastewater Surveillance.pdf	
Source Envelope:	
Document Pages: 5	Signatures: 0
Certificate Pages: 2	Initials: 0
AutoNav: Enabled	Envelope Originator:
Envelopeld Stamping: Enabled	CMS Internal Routing Mailbox
Time Zone: (UTC-06:00) Central Time (US & Canada)	11493 Sunset Hills Road
	#100
	Reston, VA 20190
	CMS.InternalRouting@dshs.texas.gov
	IP Address: 160.42.89.82

Record Tracking

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Signer Events

Signature	Timestamp
Eduardo Olivarez eduardo.olivarez@hchd.org	Sent: 5/8/2024 3:11:04 PM Viewed: 5/8/2024 4:48:54 PM

Security Level: Email, Account Authentication (None)

Electronic Record and Signature Disclosure:
Not Offered via DocuSign

Susana Garcia
Susana.Garcia@dshs.texas.gov
Security Level: Email, Account Authentication (None)

Electronic Record and Signature Disclosure:
Not Offered via DocuSign

Patty Melchior
Patty.Melchior@dshs.texas.gov
Security Level: Email, Account Authentication (None)

Electronic Record and Signature Disclosure:
Not Offered via DocuSign

Manda Hall, M.D.
manda.hall@dshs.texas.gov
Security Level: Email, Account Authentication (None)

Electronic Record and Signature Disclosure:
Not Offered via DocuSign

In Person Signer Events	Signature	Timestamp
Editor Delivery Events	Status	Timestamp
Agent Delivery Events	Status	Timestamp
Intermediary Delivery Events	Status	Timestamp
Certified Delivery Events	Status	Timestamp
Carbon Copy Events	Status	Timestamp

Carbon Copy Events	Status	Timestamp
Shonte Battle shonte.battle@dshs.texas.gov Security Level: Email, Account Authentication (None) Electronic Record and Signature Disclosure: Not Offered via DocuSign CMS Internal Routing Mailbox cms.internalrouting@dshs.texas.gov Security Level: Email, Account Authentication (None) Electronic Record and Signature Disclosure: Not Offered via DocuSign	<div style="border: 2px solid blue; padding: 5px; display: inline-block; font-weight: bold; color: blue;">COPIED</div>	Sent: 5/8/2024 3:11:04 PM

Witness Events	Signature	Timestamp
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Notary Events	Signature	Timestamp
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Envelope Summary Events	Status	Timestamps
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Payment Events	Status	Timestamps
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