

# ATCPHD HEALTH CONNECTIONS

## COVID-19 WHERE ARE WE NOW?

Two years ago, we were adjusting to the new “reality” of lockdowns and quarantine. COVID-19 was still new, and we were taking the disease one day at a time. **Within the past two years, we have discovered how the disease is spread, symptoms, and supportive treatment options.**

The initial COVID-19 pandemic caused severe respiratory symptoms, overcrowding of hospital ICUs, and even death. Thankfully, two years later, with more information about the disease and the COVID-19 vaccinations, the severity of COVID-19 has decreased. **As of April 2023, Taylor County has seen a strong decrease in COVID cases. We are also seeing a decrease of COVID-19 related hospitalizations and deaths.** *Moving forward, it's important to stay up to date on COVID-19 information. As well as, staying up to date on COVID vaccinations!*

-Summer Mitchell, ATCPHD Epidemiologist



## BATTERIES NOT INCLUDED: EMERGENCY PREPAREDNESS

TARYN STAFFORD, ATCPHD PHEP COORDINATOR

Batteries power many of the things we use and rely on every day! They might also be the only available power source in an emergency. Being prepared to power your devices (like cell phones, medical devices, and assistive technologies) during a power outage is a step toward individual resilience.

- **KEEP A PORTABLE CHARGER READY**
- **HAVE EXTRA BATTERIES ON HAND THAT WORK WITH FLASHLIGHTS AND RADIOS**
- **IF YOU RELY ON A MEDICAL DEVICE THAT USES ELECTRICITY, HAVE A GENERATOR OR OTHER POWER SOURCE AVAILABLE**



# GET TO KNOW LAB SERVICES

The Abilene-Taylor County Public Health District is home to the ATCPHD Lab. Our lab provides important services that keep our community healthy and safe!

**With an order from your physician, the ATCPHD Lab can perform clinical tests at reduced rates, including:**

- **Chemistry Profile-** used for many general health check-ups
- **Lipid panels-** Checks cholesterol and triglycerides
- **Complete Blood Count**
- **Hepatitis B Antibody Test**
- **Urinalysis**
- **Pregnancy Testing\***
- **Titers -Testing for determination of immunization need and antibodies \***

\*these test do not require a physician's order



## STD TESTING

The MERCY Clinic performs \$20 testing for HIV, Syphilis, Gonorrhea, and Chlamydia.

*Please call to make an appointment: (325) 676-6634*

*1902 Shelton Street Abilene, Texas 79603*

# MOSQUITO SEASON

**Trough**

- Stock large troughs with mosquitofish.
- Clean small troughs weekly.

**Boats**

- Keep boats tightly covered.
- Check and drain cover weekly.

**Clogged Rain Gutter**

- Clean frequently to remove leaf litter and keep water flowing.

**Bird Bath**

- Change water weekly.

**Storm Drain**

- If you think mosquitoes are breeding in storm drains, contact vector control.

**Street Gutter**

- If there is standing water for more than a few days, remove source of water (for example, adjust sprinklers to stop overwatering).

**Hole in Tree**

- Place *Bacillus thuringiensis* (Bti larvicide) in hole (effective for 2-4 weeks).

OR

- Fill holes that catch water with insulating foam.

**Pool/Hot Tub**

- Chlorine will NOT kill mosquito larvae.
- Operate filter and skimmer every day to remove egg rafts and larvae.
- Drain filters and pump out sumps regularly.
- Keep covers tight. Drain water from top of cover weekly.
- Stock unused pools with mosquitofish.

**Rain Barrel**

- Screen top with fine wire mesh.
- Treat with Bti.

**Anything That Will Hold Water More Than a Few Days**

- Drain weekly, turn upside down, throw out or recycle, or store indoors.

**Pond/Water Garden**

- Stock with mosquitofish or use *Bacillus thuringiensis* (Bti) larvicides (such as Mosquito Dunks). Ask about Bti at your local hardware store or nursery.
- Thin aquatic vegetation.

**It's almost mosquito season, so it's time to get prepared!**

Here are some of the most common places mosquitos lay their eggs. By keeping these places dry or mosquito-proof, you can avoid having large groups of mosquitos around your living spaces!

**Abilene Vector Control:**  
**(325) 437-4590**



**PUBLIC HEALTH**  
CITY OF ABILENE TEXAS