

Harris County

HCPHES

Public Health & Environmental Services

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Harris County Residents Get New Public Health App

The media event announcing this innovative technology is **Friday, July 24 at 10:30 a.m.** at Harris County Public Health & Environmental Services, 2223 West Loop South, Conference Room 532, Houston, Texas 77027.

Houston, Texas (July 24, 2015) - Harris County Public Health & Environmental Services (HCPHES) has developed a single app that brings together many of its primary public health services and integrates them with the capabilities of a smartphone. The result proactively brings HCPHES public health services into the hands of Harris County residents as never before.

Dr. Umair A. Shah, Executive Director of HCPHES says, "We have considered various uses of applications for some time. The question was how best to implement app technology in an environment that provides such a wide-range of services."

HCPHES is unveiling the first modules of its new smartphone application. The Environmental Public Health modules are the first of six to be released. The remaining four functions of the app, "Health & Wellness," "Animal Concerns," "Preparedness & Response" and "Mosquito Concerns," will become available with future releases.

"The purpose of the app is to put knowledge in the hands of our residents. We are leveraging technology to be a proactive partner with our community," says Michael Schaffer, Director of Environmental Public Health.

The modules are a two-way conduit – not only providing public health information but also the ability to report information back to the county health department.

- **Food Establishments** – gives direct access to inspection reports and provides a mechanism for reporting instances of possible foodborne illness or other unsafe practices at food establishments in unincorporated Harris County.
- **Report Issues** – makes reporting hazardous situations with commercial pools, public drinking water or neighborhood nuisances easy.

The HCPHES app is available for free download at Google play and iTunes stores.

To preview the new HCPHES app, visit:

<http://mobileapp.hcphe.org/#>

HCPHES is the local public health agency for the Harris County, Texas jurisdiction. It provides a wide variety of public health activities and services aimed at improving the health and well-being of the Harris County community. For more information, please visit HCPHES at www.hcphe.org.

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