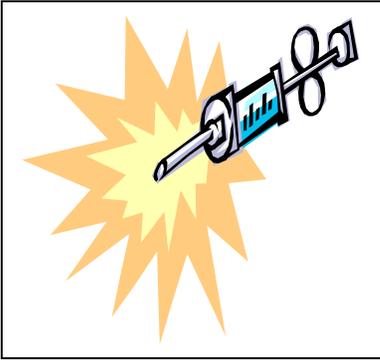




# REPRESENTATIVE ROBERTO R. ALONZO'S capitol report



For more information concerning these topics or to schedule an appointment please call (512) 463-0408 or visit [www.house.state.tx.us](http://www.house.state.tx.us)



Rep. Alonzo (Left) and House Speaker Joe Straus (right) with Dr. Thomas SHima, DO, of Dallas, who volunteered as "Physician of the Day" during the 82nd Legislative Session in Austin.

## ***It's the Law: Required Immunizations for the 2012-13 School Year for Students in Grades K-12; Get Them Soon Before the School Year Starts!***

According to the Texas Department of State Health Services (TDSHS), immunizations are an important part of protecting your child's, your family's, and your community's health, and **state law requires students in Texas schools to be immunized against certain vaccine-preventable diseases.** The TDSHS understands that it can be difficult to get your children vaccinated before the school year begins. Thus, they would like to stress the importance of getting these required vaccines at the earliest possible time, to avoid the back-to-school immunization rush.

Due to a recent policy change, **effective January 1, 2012** local health departments and health service regional clinics may not vaccinate insured children using TVFC vaccine. This means that a person with health insurance who has previously been vaccinated in a local health department or health service regional clinic may be referred back to his or her doctor, if the public health clinic does not carry private stock vaccine. Please call your doctor now to set up an appointment if needed. **Please be aware that students without the proper documentation of the required vaccinations or a valid exemption will not be allowed to attend school.**

To determine the specific vaccines that will be required for your child, please visit the website at: [www.ImmunizeTexas.com](http://www.ImmunizeTexas.com) to view the required document. This document and more information about required vaccines for school are available on the DSHS Immunization Branch website at [www.ImmunizeTexas.com](http://www.ImmunizeTexas.com). If you need help determining your child's vaccine requirements for the 2012-2013 school year, please contact your child's doctor. You may also visit the link at: <http://www.dshs.state.tx.us/immunize/school/default.shtm#requirements>

If you have questions or need additional information, you may also call the Immunization Branch Customer Service number **(800) 252-9152**.

## ***Locally in Dallas, Where Can you Get your Immunizations?***

Dallas County Health and Human Services is offering back to school immunizations for students whose private insurance does not cover vaccines.

Students eligible to receive immunizations at Dallas County Health and Human Services can go to any of the clinic locations from 8 a.m. to 4 p.m. Monday through Friday.

The clinic locations include: 2377 N. Stemmons Freeway, Room 159 in Dallas; 3312 N. Buckner Boulevard, Suite 200 in Dallas; **1113 E. Jefferson Boulevard, Suite 200 in Dallas;** 440 South Nursery Road, in Irving and 2774 Valwood Parkway in Farmers Branch.

To get further information, about the different locations as well as the telephone numbers, you may also visit the link at: <http://www.dallascounty.org/departments/hhs/immunizationhours.html>