

Planned Parenthood of Greater Texas:

January Connections

Welcome to the first edition of the 2022 Planned Parenthood of Greater Texas monthly newsletter. As a valued supporter, we would like to share the latest updates on the work you make possible at Planned Parenthood. We have also included important action alerts and upcoming events.



CERVICAL HEALTH EDUCATION

Preventive education regarding cervical health is essential. In January, Planned Parenthood of Greater Texas recognizes Cervical Health Awareness Month to raise awareness about cervical cancer prevention and advocate for the reduction of cervical cancer as a public health priority.

Persistent infection with high-risk human papillomavirus (HPV) is a leading cause of cervical cancer, with more than 4,000 people dying from the disease every year nationwide. Annually, more than 13,000 individuals are diagnosed nationwide with invasive cervical cancer; cancer that has spread from the opening of the cervix to tissue in the cervix or other body parts.

Yet, cervical cancer is one of the most preventable and treatable forms of cancer because the HPV vaccine protects against high-risk HPV. Routine screening can detect signs of disease early, allowing for effective treatment and management of the condition.

To educate Texans about risk factors, symptoms, prevention, early detection, and treatment, Planned Parenthood implements social media and patient awareness campaigns and community health educators facilitate groups on cervical health.

EXPANDED SERVICES SUPPORTING PATIENTS

Planned Parenthood of Greater Texas is expanding access to healthcare appointments for uninsured patients at Planned Parenthood's 24 health centers in Austin, Dallas, Denton, El Paso, Fort Worth, Lubbock, Paris, Plano, Tyler, Waco and surrounding communities. Essential, preventive healthcare services include:

- HPV vaccines
- Breast and cervical cancer screenings
- Birth control, including IUDs and implants
- Sexually transmitted infection (STI) testing and treatment
- Pregnancy testing and options education
- Urinary tract infections treatment
- Gender affirming hormone therapy (in select locations)

Additional resources are also available to patients seeking abortion due to Texas' extreme abortion ban (SB 8):

- Financial assistance to reduce the cost of medical care
- Support for travel for patients forced to leave Texas (e.g. gas cards, flights, and other travel and lodging support)
- Patient navigation staff to help patients through the overwhelming realities of obtaining an abortion in Texas today
- Take-home "empowerment kits" containing emergency contraception, early detection pregnancy tests, condoms, and information about Texas' abortion ban, available to all patients at no cost.

SOUTH AUSTIN HEALTH CENTER WEEKEND CLINIC

As part of our expanded access to care, the South Austin Health Center is now accepting weekend appointments for family planning services. This health center location is now open from 9:00 AM to 5:00 PM on Saturdays and Sundays. Schedule your next appointment by calling 512-351-4660.

TEXAS ABORTION BAN - WHERE ARE WE NOW?

In December, new court rulings were issued on lawsuits filed by Planned Parenthood of Greater Texas and allied organizations to overturn the Texas abortion ban that prohibits abortions after approximately six weeks. Unfortunately, the rulings do not overturn the Texas abortion restriction law or provide full protection from the devastating "vigilante" lawsuit system created to enforce the Texas abortion restriction law. Our attorneys are closely reviewing the new rulings and when abortion access can be expanded, we'll share those updates immediately.

January is Cervical Health Awareness Month.

Planned Parenthood saves lives through the early detection of cervical cancer.

1,223

As of October 2021, Planned Parenthood of Greater Texas provided 1,223 HPV vaccines to protect Texans against cervical and other HPV-related cancers.

\$500

Provides two patients with colposcopies - an advanced form of cervical and vaginal tissue screening to identify or remove precancerous cells.

3,955

As of October 2021, Planned Parenthood of Greater Texas provided 3,955 potentially life-saving cervical cancer screenings.

Our most common services provided are:



Birth control to help Texans plan and space their pregnancies.



Testing and treatment for STIs, HIV tests, and PrEP and PEP.



Lifesaving breast and cervical cancer screenings.

"I reduced my hours at work. Consequently, I lost my health insurance [and] was left uninsured for some time. I have been identified as being at high-risk for cervical cancer and have been able to continue with check-ups and screenings at Planned Parenthood at a reasonable cost. I am so grateful that Planned Parenthood exists to fill gaps in our healthcare system for low-income women."

- Annie, Planned Parenthood of Greater Texas patient

A NEWS CONNECTION

The US Supreme Court heard Dobbs v. Jackson Women's Health Organization oral arguments: the challenge to Mississippi's 15 week abortion ban that could eliminate the constitutional right established by Roe v. Wade and affirmed by Planned Parenthood v. Casey. The ruling is due next year and will impact more than 36 million people of reproductive age, particularly in 26 states.






TAKE ACTION

Texas' unconstitutional ban on abortion is part of a coordinated attack at the state level to restrict access to safe, legal abortion. That's why no matter what happens in the courts, it's essential that the U.S. Senate pass the Women's Health Protection Act without delay. This critical legislation would protect the right to abortion nationwide and guard against dangerous abortion bans and medically unnecessary abortion restrictions promoted by Texas politicians.

WAYS TO GIVE

Would you like to continue supporting high-quality healthcare services and sex education programs for generations to come? Contact Shawn Wills, Chief Development Officer, at (214) 363-3505 or shawn.wills@ppgt.org if you want to learn how a legacy gift to Planned Parenthood can ensure your commitment to high-quality care for all continues.

Your gift of:

-  **\$1,000** offers ten patients peace of mind with emergency contraception and health education resources
-  **\$500** prevents cervical cancer through screenings and treatment for two patients
-  **\$200** empowers one teen with honest, inclusive sex education
-  **\$100** keeps communities healthy through the distribution of 500 condoms
-  **\$30** prevents unintended pregnancies through one month of birth control

If you have a question or if you want to learn more, please contact the Development Office at (214) 254-3017 or email us at development@ppgt.org.

