

## DSHS Encourages Flu Vaccination Ahead of Thanksgiving

Public Health flu monitoring indicates the Texas flu season kicked off a few weeks earlier than usual this year. That's why the Texas Department of State Health Services encourages Texans to get vaccinated now to protect themselves and their families from flu as the holidays approach.

"Vaccination remains our best defense against severe illness from flu, especially for more vulnerable populations like older adults, very young children, people with chronic health conditions and pregnant women," said Dr. Jennifer Shuford, DSHS Interim Commissioner. "That's why we recommend that everyone six months and older receive their flu vaccine each year. And it's especially important to get vaccinated now since it takes the body two weeks after vaccination to fully produce antibodies to fight flu."

Reporting from around the state confirms more influenza-like illness occurring earlier than recent flu seasons, which matches flu reporting from across much of the country. The flu vaccines

for this 2022-2023 season have undergone substantial changes since last season, which will allow them to better protect against the flu viruses that are now circulating.

Anyone feeling ill or experiencing flu symptoms should stay at home and contact their health care provider. There are effective anti-viral treatments available for the flu, which are highly recommended for people at higher risk of flu complications, such as people with asthma, diabetes or heart disease. Other ways people can protect themselves and the people close to them from flu is to wash their hands often, cover their coughs and sneezes and stay home if they don't feel well.

Eligible Texans can also safely and conveniently get their flu shot and updated COVID-19 booster at the same time. The updated COVID-19 booster is designed to protect against the Omicron variants, which are causing the most COVID-19 illness in Texas right now.

## China reports 20,199 new COVID cases for Nov 15 vs 17,909 a day earlier



**SHANGHAI, Nov 16 (Reuters)** - China reported 20,199 new COVID-19 infections for Nov. 15, of which 1,623 were symptomatic and 18,576 were asymptomatic, the National Health Commission said on Wednesday.

That compared with 17,909 new cases a day earlier – 1,661 symptomatic and 16,248 asymptomatic, which China counts separately.

Excluding imported infections, China reported 20,059 new local cases of which 1,568 were symptomatic and 18,491 were asymptomatic, up from 17,772 a day earlier.

There were no new deaths, unchanged from a day earlier, keeping fatalities at 5,226.

As of Tuesday, mainland China had confirmed 277,043 cases with symptoms.

China's capital Beijing reported 197 symptomatic and 174 asymptomatic cases, compared with 303 symptomatic and 159 asymptomatic the previous day, local government data showed.

Guangzhou, a city in the south of nearly 19 million people said, reported 158 new locally transmitted symptomatic and 6,138 asymptomatic cases, compared with 147 symptomatic and 4,977 asymptomatic cases a day before, local authorities said.

Major manufacturing hub Zhengzhou reported 200 new symptomatic locally transmitted COVID-19 infections and 1,650 asymptomatic cases, compared with 148 symptomatic and 2,102 asymptomatic cases a day before, according to local authorities.

The city of Chongqing reported 126 new symptomatic locally transmitted COVID-19 infections and 2,688 asymptomatic cases, compared with 157 symptomatic and 2,794 asymptomatic cases the previous day, local government authorities said.

## Magical Event "Southern Lights" Coming To Pease Park in December

**(AUSTIN, TX)** - Southern Lights, Pease Park Conservancy's first family-friendly Winter festival at Kingsbury Commons, will take place on Saturday, December 10 at 2 p.m., and the entire Austin community is invited to attend! This free celebration of the Winter Solstice will include family pictures with Pax the Winter Squirrel Elf, the Light and Love Food Drive supporting the Caritas of Austin food pantry, a marketplace by Frida Friday ATX, music by All Rhythms, SummerStock Austin and local Austin DJs, crafting with recycled materials by Small Wonders Puppet Theater, and dance classes by Dance Waterloo.

It doesn't end there! The Tudor Cottage and Terrace will transform into the SnoRide SnoHill

for Austinites of all ages to slide down using snow tubes! Not into snow tubing? No worries! In addition to tubing, there will be a designated SnoPatch on the lawn for folks to experience the snow in a different way. Visit the activation to let your creativity run wild as you make snow angels, snow folks, or even snow squirrels if you are up for a challenge! Finally, the festival will end with the Southern Lights, a sunset light show in the Treehouse, a very rare opportunity to see the "Aurora Borealis" in Austin.

Southern Lights is presented by H-E-B and SnoRide and hosted and curated by Pease Park Conservancy and Austin Parks and Recreation. Learn more about Southern Lights at [PeasePark.org/Southern-Lights](http://PeasePark.org/Southern-Lights).

## New Poll Possibly Showing Donald Trump's Chances Of Winning The GOP Nomination

by Shana Aborn | THE LIST

(THE LIST) - A new poll is offering a glimpse into Republican voters' preferences. Despite Donald Trump's failure to help Republicans take control of the Senate, his party still believes he's the man to beat in 2024. A new poll by Morning Consult/Politico taken just after the midterms shows that 47% of GOP voters would support the former president if the primaries were held today. The number represents a drop of just 1% from his pre-midterm numbers. More worrisome for Trump, however, is the result of a follow-up question. Asked whether they

thought Trump should run for another term, just 61% said yes — down from a more rousing 71% in August 2022 and his lowest rating in the past 13 months.

The poll also revealed another startling trend: A full 33% of Republican voters said they would throw their support behind Ron DeSantis if he were to get the party's nomination. This is a 7% jump for the Florida governor since the days before the midterms, and it could spell bad news for Trump in the long run. The two conservatives were formerly allies, but in recent months DeSantis has distanced



himself from Trump, and the former commander-in-chief isn't taking it well. Trump attacked DeSantis by calling him disloyal and referring to him as "Ron DeSanctimonious" (via CNN), which even his fellow conservatives criti-

cized as being divisive.

During his speech on November 15, Trump declared, "America's comeback starts right now." It remains to be seen whether his comeback will be as successful.

### PFLUGERVILLE INDEPENDENT SCHOOL DISTRICT REQUEST FOR PROPOSALS - SECURITY VESTIBULES DEADLINE: FRIDAY, DECEMBER 2, 2022 AT 2 P.M.

The Pflugerville Independent School District will open Proposals for Security Vestibules Phase 3 on Friday, December 2, 2022 @ 2:00 p.m. The estimated budget for this project is \$3,700,000 and project completion is expected by Tuesday, August 1, 2023. All proposals may be submitted (by mail or hand carry) to: Pflugerville ISD, 1401 West Pecan Street, Pflugerville, TX 78660, Attn: Craig Pruett. Proposals may be picked up in person or downloaded from the PISD website at: [www.pfisd.net](http://www.pfisd.net). Regards - Executive Director of Procurement and Auxiliary Services Pflugerville ISD.

People Against Violent Crime along with the Criminal Justice Community cordially invites you to join us for the

### 32nd Annual Tree of Angels®

Honoring Victims of Violent Crime

Carol Ann

AMY

ELIZA

JENNIFER

SARAH

Colton

**Saturday, December 3, 2022**  
**3pm - 5pm**  
**Central Christian Church**  
**1110 Guadalupe Street**  
**Austin, TX 78701**

Designed by Marissa Carpenter and DeNell Williams

RFP FOR STRATEGIC PLANNING SERVICES  
 Deadline: Wednesday, December 7, 2022, 5 p. m.

Integral Care is currently soliciting proposals for Strategic Planning Services (on behalf of the Integrated Collaboration). Request for Proposals may be accessed at [integralcare.org/business-opportunities](http://integralcare.org/business-opportunities) beginning Wednesday, November 2, 2022 and responses submitted electronically to Brody Ballard at [brody.ballard@integralcare.org](mailto:brody.ballard@integralcare.org). The deadline to submit a proposal under the RFP is 5:00 p.m., CST on Wednesday, December 7, 2022. Historically Underutilized Businesses, including Minority-Owned Businesses and Women-Owned Businesses, are encouraged to apply.

**We Want YOU!**  
**Advertise With The VILLAGER**

**PURCHASING OFFICE**

**Are you interested in doing business with the City of Austin?**

**We are here for you!**  
 City of Austin  
 Purchasing Office  
 Vendor Registration  
 512-974-2018  
[VendorReg@austintexas.gov](mailto:VendorReg@austintexas.gov)  
[www.austintexas.gov/department/purchasing](http://www.austintexas.gov/department/purchasing)

For information on the City of Austin's Minority/Women-Owned Procurement Program please contact the Small & Minority Business Resources at 512-974-7600 or visit [www.austintexas.gov/smb](http://www.austintexas.gov/smb).