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**COMAL COUNTY, TEXAS
PUBLIC INFORMATION OFFICE**

County's health authority named to infectious disease task force

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NEW BRAUNFELS — Dr. Dorothy Overman, the Comal County health authority since 1990, has been named to Gov. Greg Abbott's Task Force on Infectious Disease Preparedness and Response.

The 31-member task force is chaired by Dr. John Hellerstedt, commissioner of the Texas Department of State Health Services (DSHS), and includes experts and officials from a wide swath of first responders, emergency management experts, public health officials and others.

It is an honor to be asked to serve," Overman said. "I will be working with other members who are specialists in their field. I am looking forward to meeting them and working with them on Zika virus and other diseases that concern the public."

According to the governor's office, the task force was created to provide expert, evidence-based assessments, protocols and recommendations related to the state's response to infectious diseases, and to serve as a reliable and transparent source of information and education for Texas leadership and residents.

As health authority, Overman works with the Comal County Public Health Office and DSHS on diseases affecting the community, disease prevention, public education, sheltering of evacuees and disaster preparedness.

Overman, a family practice physician in New Braunfels since 1985, is certified by the American Board of Family Practice and also serves as medical consultant to the City of New Braunfels.

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