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Subject: Comal County press release: National health, nutrition study coming to county
Date: Monday, February 01, 2016 4:18:14 PM

**COMAL COUNTY, TEXAS
PUBLIC INFORMATION OFFICE**

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County to welcome national health and nutrition study

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE, FEBRUARY 1, 2016:

NEW BRAUNFELS — The Comal County Commissioners Court on Thursday approved an agreement to lease space in downtown New Braunfels that will house a mobile medical exam center as part of an annual U.S. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention study of American health and nutrition.

The National Health and Nutrition Examination Survey (NHANES) is conducted in a handful of counties across the country every year in an effort to collect data about Americans' health and nutrition, spot trends as they develop and inform public-health policy. Comal County was one of just 15 counties selected for the 2016 survey.

In each county, the CDC's National Center for Health Statistics selects certain residents to interview, and among them, selects some residents to participate in a free medical exam. Residents who participate receive a cash reimbursement of up to \$140 and the results of their exam to share with their doctor if they so choose.

“This is a great opportunity for Comal County residents to help improve their own health as well as our nation's health,” said Gwen Mills, Comal County public health director. “All information shared with the survey and the results of any medical or dental exams are kept confidential.”

Interviewers for the survey will be in Comal County beginning March 5. The agreement approved Thursday allows the medical exam center to set up in the parking lot at 340 N. Seguin Ave. in New Braunfels.

NHANES began in 1960; since then, the survey's data has benefited Americans of all ages, informing

policies that have led to better vaccines, the removal of lead from paint and gasoline, and attention on rising rates of heart disease and obesity.

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