

Free programs for schools

The University of Texas MD Anderson Cancer Center offers free programs for students, teachers and parents, including virtual and in-person presentations, volunteer opportunities, curricula and more.



To request a free program or series of programs for your school, visit MDAnderson.org/Community, email Community@MDAnderson.org, or call **713-792-3363**.

Programs for preschool and elementary school students

These programs address many of the health education Texas Essential Knowledge and Skills (TEKS) requirements at the elementary school level.

Too Cool to Smoke Puppet Show

It's never too early for kids to learn about the dangers of tobacco. This program breaks down a complex subject in a fun and entertaining way for kids in kindergarten through 4th grade.

Ray and the Sunbeatables®

Ray and the Sunbeatables is a sun safety curriculum for teachers to use with children and their families to educate them about ways to protect themselves from the sun.

Programs for middle and high school students

These programs address many of the health education Texas Essential Knowledge and Skills (TEKS) requirements at the middle and high school level.

The Truth about Tobacco and Vaping: What Preteens and Teens Should Know

E-cigarette use is rising sharply among preteens, teens and young adults. Cigarettes, JUULs and e-cigarettes are dangerous tobacco products that deliver addictive nicotine, which is harmful to developing brains. This presentation arms young people with the facts on nicotine, and tools to resist peer pressure.

ASPIRE: A Smoking Prevention Interactive Experience

ASPIRE is a free online program for teens that tackles the big issues about tobacco, including e-cigarettes, hookah, JUUL and synthetic marijuana. This program is an online curriculum for middle- and high-school teachers to educate students on the dangers of these products. It's available in English and Spanish.

High school blood donor program

MD Anderson wants to instill blood donation as a lifelong practice in young adults. This program offers students and schools opportunities to make a difference for our cancer patients. Schools are eligible to apply for appreciation programs, and students can receive community service hours and participate in educational workshops, such as blood typing, basic phlebotomy and careers in medicine. To find out more, visit MDAnderson.org/BloodBank.

Quit vaping program

In collaboration with the nationally renowned Truth Initiative, MD Anderson offers This is Quitting, a text-based service to help youth and young adults, ages 13 to 24, to quit vaping. They receive free, anonymous, 24/7 support by texting VAPEFREEXTX to 88709. Parents can receive messages with tips and advice to help their loved one by texting QUIT to 202-899-7550.

Summer programs for high school and college students in the Houston area

Summer Experience Program

Hands-on experience is the backbone of a career in science and medicine. The MD Anderson Summer Experience introduces students to a research environment and provides the opportunity to explore careers in research and oncology. Each year, around 300 students are selected to join teams of experts across the institution to gain valuable insights to support their future professional lives.

Teen Volunteers

Volunteering offers students the chance to grow beyond the classroom and build skills crucial for their future. The MD Anderson Teen Volunteer Leadership in Cancer Care Program provides opportunities for young people ages 15–18 to support patients and their families in a hospital setting, gain exposure to a variety of health care careers, learn effective communication and improve leadership skills. To find out more, visit MDAnderson.org/Volunteer.

Programs for teachers and parents

Cancer Symptoms Women Shouldn't Ignore

The signs of cancer can be vague and similar to symptoms of other illnesses. Learn what to watch out for, tests to find cancer early when it's most treatable and lifestyle changes that can lower your risk.

Healthy Weight, Healthy Life

Adopting healthy eating habits and being physically active are some of the best ways to maintain a healthy weight. And maintaining a healthy weight reduces your risk for more than 10 types of cancer. Get tips and tools to help you eat better, be more active and monitor your weight.

The Truth About Tobacco and Vaping: What You Should Know

This program is similar to the teen presentation, but helps parents identify different vaping devices and tips on how to quit. Learn more about how to protect kids and teens from these products. This presentation is available in English and Spanish.