

**TSEU** for immediate  
release . . .

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## A MESSAGE FROM TSEU. . .

### **As state workers and residents die from coronavirus, TSEU calls on Governor Abbott and lawmakers to do much more to protect everyone**

**M**embers of the Texas State Employees Union are saddened at the deaths of state workers and facility residents due to COVID-19. Reports have confirmed the deaths of workers at the TJJD facility in Giddings, the San Antonio State Hospital, and the Lufkin State Supported Living Center due to coronavirus. It has also been confirmed that 24 residents and 22 staff at the Corpus Christi State Supported Living have tested positive for the virus.

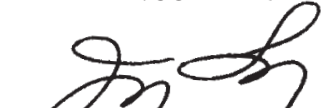
Over the past few months, the Texas State Employees Union along with other labor organizations and Legislators have reached out to Governor Abbott's office demanding additional precautions be put in place, and that workers be compensated for putting their lives on the line to protect Texans. So far, the Governor and lawmakers have failed to do enough to protect our state employees and the thousands of Texans who depend on state services every day. But as more and more state workers and clients die, the voices calling on our Governor and Legislators to take action grow louder and louder. **SPECIFICALLY, TSEU MEMBERS AND OUR ALLIES ARE CALLING ON GOV. ABBOTT TO MANDATE:**

- No further openings of State Offices or Universities should occur until the CDC recommended "Downward trajectory (or near-zero incidence) of documented cases over a 14-day period" is achieved. · All workers deemed **VULNERABLE INDIVIDUALS** should continue to work from home and keep sheltering in place. This work from home directive should be extended to state employees with members of households that are deemed to be vulnerable residents. Texas should be aware that by forcing a return to work they are responsible for the possibility of workers carrying the virus back home.
- State offices should be deep-cleaned and disinfected daily. Following protocols set in place by the CDC, social distancing and masks should be required in all state offices without exception.
- Every state office must post signs at the facility advising staff and visitors to check-in with the front desk to be assessed for symptoms prior to entry. Visitors and staff must be screened daily for fever ( $T \geq 100.0$  F), and access should be denied to anyone with fever, symptoms, or known exposure. This protocol must be written and presented to all employees.
- State facilities should assign at least one individual with training in Infection Prevention and Control (IPC) to provide training, answer questions, and administer on-site management of their COVID-19 prevention and response activities.
- The State of Texas must make public the number of infections, and deaths of state employees broken down by region, agency/ university, and location: to assess risk.
- Proper PPE should be provided at no cost to state employees including masks, soap, hand sanitizer, cleaning supplies.
- Official guidelines need to be established for quarantine of state workers after exposure to individuals with COVID. Guidelines also need to be established to close infected offices for 24 hours to properly disinfect after confirmed case of COVID. These guidelines should be public and posted in facilities and Universities.
- **Hazard duty pay must be given to every state employee while COVID protocols are in place to stabilize the workforce and prevent added turnover.**

**The hardships State Employees are currently facing with COVID-19, demand common sense solutions to keep the state functioning and everyone safe. This is not happening now. Public employees should not be required to put our lives on the line without every effort made to keep us safe first. We are essential not sacrificial!**



IN SOLIDARITY

  
JUDY LUGO  
TSEU PRESIDENT

