



March 27, 2020

The Honorable Greg Abbott  
Office of the Governor  
P.O. Box 12428  
Austin, Texas 78711-2428

Dear Governor Abbott:

As representatives of the hundreds of thousands of frontline health care workers across the continuum of care, we ask you to continue to be aware of our urgent need for personal protective equipment and priority access to testing to keep workers safe during the COVID-19 emergency. Given the increasing pressures on the health care system, we continue to advocate for items with speed and urgency.

We appreciate your announcement earlier this week highlighting the millions of dollars in supplies ordered for Texas, and we are asking for increased visibility regarding when the supplies and testing will be available and how they will be distributed. We also seek information about the donations coming through Texas.gov, and when and how those supplies will be distributed. Visibility into the timing and distribution of PPE and supplies will help hospitals instill trust and hope in frontline staff and give them confidence to respond to this crisis.

Physicians, nurses and staff are becoming increasingly concerned as supplies dwindle and case counts surge across the country. Health care workers on the frontlines of COVID-19 are an asset to our great state. They are always ready for emergencies, but COVID-19 is taxing the system. We cannot underestimate the physical and emotional toll of this work, and we have a duty to protect them. They are the primary force behind the state's ability to fight COVID-19 and are vital to the state's overall response.

We are extremely grateful for your leadership and Executive Orders that help hospitals preserve supplies, stop unnecessary services and increase hospital capacity, and for your fast movement on waivers that provide additional flexibilities for health care.

We are all in this together, and we applaud your strong response to COVID-19 and your commitment to protect Texans. We look forward to the opportunity to continue to work with you, your staff and the newly formed Strike Force on the issue of PPE.

Sincerely,

Ted Shaw  
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THA

Cindy D. Zolnierak, PhD, RN  
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