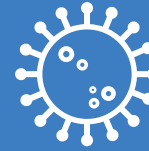


# NOVEL CORONAVIRUS—COVID-19

## WHAT YOU NEED TO KNOW AND WHERE YOU NEED TO GO



### DOCUMENTATION IS CRITICAL

- Unfortunate patient outcomes from the coronavirus will lead to lawsuits in the coming months and compliance and procurement officers will be “CRITICAL WITNESSES” in such litigation.
- Staff members contacting COVID will result in lawsuits; struggles to get personal protective equipment and staff training on the use of PPE.
- Procurement officers should be documenting all their decision-making and challenges/struggles regarding PPE.
- As you respond to each new piece of guidance, document what you knew, when you knew it and your response.
- Treated all documentation as if one day it will be turned over to a regulatory body or the court, and ask yourself is this communication sending the right message about our commitment to put proper protocols and PPE in place for the protection of our residents and the protection of our frontline caregivers.
- Facilities could very well be judged against a standard six months from now that is not the standard today and wasn’t the standard yesterday, or last week.
- Many states have implemented some form of immunity for healthcare providers from COVID-related lawsuits, however, in Texas the debate is who has the authority; the executive or legislative branch.
- To date Governor Abbott has not issued an executive order on this topic, choosing instead to ask federal authorities to step in.

For All USI STEER Resources visit:

<https://www.usi.com/public-health-emergencies/?emailvalidated=true>

**STAY SAFE. STAY WELL.**