



Press Release

For Immediate Release

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Nurses Prepare for COVID-19

As COVID-19 information and guidance for health professionals becomes available, Texas Nurses Association is working to educate all Texas nurses on necessary precautions and prevention methods.

Part of the nurse's role is to be a patient advocate, and we need to think about patients first and foremost. As Texans hear rapidly changing information about COVID-19, we want to stress that everyone should be vigilant but not panic. Nurses can help educate the public and assuage patient fears if they start to display symptoms.

The best prevention practices are those that nurses already follow: washing hands correctly with soap and water, covering coughs, and disinfecting surfaces. Nurses can play a role in teaching these basic skills to the public and in making sure these practices are used consistently by all staff in their workplaces.

As the frontline health care workers who will respond to cases of COVID-19, nurses need to understand both their responsibilities and rights. While nurses can protect themselves and patients with proper personal protective equipment and infection control practices, employers have a responsibility to provide adequate locations and time for handwashing or sanitizing, as well as supplies such as protective gloves, mask and gowns. Nurses have the right to expect a safe work environment.

We are encouraged by the CDC's decision to [broaden testing criteria](#) and their dedication to distribute more tests throughout the United States. Nurses should follow the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention guidelines on isolating patients suspected of having COVID-19 and when to test patients.

We also applaud the letter requesting [dedicated emergency funding](#) by the American Nurses Association and the American Hospital Association. Without immediate funds to properly train nurses and other health care staff on signs and symptoms of COVID-19, or the funds to test, monitor and isolate patients, some of whom might be underinsured or uninsured, we will be unable to rapidly respond to new cases or prevent future community transmissions.



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We encourage nurses and the public to use reliable sources of information, such as the CDC or the World Health Organization, and to understand that data and guidance will be updated as researchers learn more about COVID-19 and its transmission.

For more information, we refer nurses to [Preparing for COVID-19](#).

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About Texas Nurses Association

The Texas Nurses Association (TNA) is a statewide membership-based professional association of registered nurses. Our vision is to empower Texas Nurses to advance the profession. Founded in 1907, TNA is the oldest and largest nursing association in Texas.

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