



Press Release

For Immediate Release

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Expert Panel Should Include Nurses

We are highly disappointed by the City of Austin and Mayor Adler's decision to create a COVID-19 expert panel that contains doctors but zero experts from nursing, community health, epidemiology or other areas. By limiting members of this special expert panel to physicians and one medical society administrator, the City of Austin misses the opportunity for real solutions generated by rich and diverse perspectives of an interprofessional team.

This decision also ignores the recommendations of the Institutes of Medicine 2010 Future of Nursing report and the public's enduring confidence in nurses to lead health care change, as shown by nursing being voted the most trusted profession by Gallup 18 years in a row and a study by the Commonwealth Fund showing that nurses were the only group of health care professionals the public trusted to develop insurance reform.

As we write this, thousands of nurses are putting their lives on the line and using their expertise to find solutions for tracking, preventing and treating Coronavirus. Across the state, nurses are already enacting new procedures, creating workplace protocols and making clinical decisions in order to better prepare health care facilities for the incoming COVID-19 crisis. Every day, they work with hospital administrators, infection control specialists, public health officials and doctors to make sure Texans get the best care possible.

Health care is interprofessional. The panel should be too.

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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.

Contact us at tna@texasnurses.org. Follow TNA on [Facebook](#) and [Twitter](#) for updates.