



March 21, 2020

The Honorable Greg Abbott  
1100 San Jacinto Boulevard  
Austin, TX 78701

*Sent via email: luis.saenz@gov.texas.gov*

Dear Governor Abbott,

First, we want to thank you for your steadfast leadership on behalf of all Texans as we do our parts to combat the COVID-19 pandemic.

In addition to the mayors of Dallas, Fort Worth and Arlington, the undersigned are North Texas healthcare leaders who are concerned about the abilities of hospitals and our communities to respond to the spread of COVID-19.

During this unprecedented time, we are reaching out collectively because we strongly believe that now is the time to act swiftly to ensure our healthcare systems and first-responder infrastructure maintains a level of readiness and the capacity to support the Texans who will be infected by COVID-19. **As such, we respectfully request that you consider issuing mandatory shelter-in-place orders for the State of Texas, or at minimum, that you very strongly recommend “Safer at Home” directives fashioned in a similar nature to those implemented in New York and California.**

While the temporary economic ramifications of such decisions weigh heavily on us, we know that public health must be our primary concern. In addition, we believe a statewide approach to limiting non-essential business or commerce -- rather than allowing a patchwork of regulations in neighboring cities and counties -- is imperative to slowing the spread of COVID-19, which does not stop at county lines or city limits. But we also understand that Texas is an incredibly diverse state, and that urban and rural areas may require different sets of rules specific to the challenges faced by both.

Our recommendation for statewide shelter-in-place directives are based upon our healthcare system's ability to handle volume surges in our hospitals. It is imperative that we work to reduce deaths and the number of infected people and try to avoid the outcomes of COVID-19's spread experienced by some other communities, which have lost to quarantine many frontline medical professionals and first responders. We must do all that we can now to protect our patients, our healthcare professionals, and our first responders so we can save lives and restore the economic vibrancy of our cities and our great state as quickly as possible.

Again, we thank you for your leadership through these trying times. We are confident that Texans have the toughness, the generosity, and the resilience to flatten the curve of COVID-19's spread, and we want you to know that we stand ready to support you in this difficult decision.

Sincerely,



Mayor Betsy Price  
City of Fort Worth



Mayor Eric Johnson  
City of Dallas



Mayor Jeff Williams  
City of Arlington



Dennis Shingleton  
District 7  
Fort Worth City Council



Brian Byrd  
District 3  
Fort Worth City Council



Robert Earley  
President & CEO  
JPS Health Network



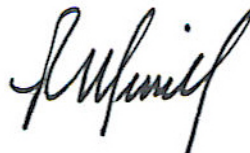
Michael Sanborn, President  
President  
Baylor Scott & White All Saints - Fort Worth



Michael R. Williams, DO, MD, MBA  
President  
University of North Texas Health Science  
Center at Fort Worth



Barclay E. Berdan  
Chief Executive Officer  
Texas Health Resources



Rick W. Merrill  
President & CEO  
Cook Children's Health Care System



Jyric Sims, FAHCE  
CEO  
Medical City Fort Worth



Stephen Love  
President and CEO  
Dallas-Fort Worth Hospital Council

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Keith Argenbright".

Keith Argenbright, MD  
Director  
Moncrief Cancer Institute

A handwritten signature in purple ink that reads "Douglas Hooten".

Douglas Hooten, MBA  
Chief Executive Officer  
MedStar Mobile Healthcare

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Veer D. Vithalani".

Veer D. Vithalani, MD, FACEP, FAEMS  
Interim Medical Director  
MedStar Mobile Healthcare

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "David Mansdoerfer".

David Mansdoerfer  
Former Deputy Assistant Secretary for Health  
U.S. Department of Health and Human Services  
Center

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Diana Cervantes".

Diana Cervantes, MS, DrPH, CPH, CIC  
Director, MPH Epidemiology Program  
University of North Texas Health Science

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Jim Davis".

Jim Davis  
Chief  
Fort Worth Fire Department

A handwritten signature in purple ink that reads "Ed Kraus".

Ed Kraus  
Chief  
Fort Worth Police Department