



## Joint Statement on COVID-19

**Texas Nurses Association (TNA)  
Texas Organization for Nursing Leadership (TONL)  
Texas Board of Nursing (TBON)**

**April 6, 2020**

On behalf of the Texas Nurses Association, Texas Organization for Nursing Leadership, and the Texas Board of Nursing who licenses 333,096 Registered Nurses, 106,642 Licensed Vocational Nurses, and 31,990 Advanced Practice Registered Nurses in Texas, we extend our profound gratitude to everyone engaged in the delivery of care, as we all work to address the effects of the COVID-19 pandemic.

Collaborative efforts continue in Texas among local and state public health officials and our healthcare providers. We are working diligently with our healthcare association partners and state leaders to obtain and provide safeguards to prevent the transmission of coronavirus to healthcare workers and those who seek care. The situation before us is dynamic, and we are constantly learning from colleagues who are further ahead in the care and treatment of individuals with COVID-19.

We acknowledge adjusting to new and evolving policies is stressful. We also respect the fear of becoming infected and transmitting the virus to your family. During this time of unknowns, it is critically important for all nurses to communicate regularly, consistently, and honestly through all levels of our organizations about crisis plans and the rationale for new practices, as guided by the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC). This clear communication is essential to arrive at solutions for novel patient care challenges without compromising a nurse's duty to keep patients safe. Now is a time of heightened stress and anxiety for all – let each one of us respond with kindness and tolerance when actions and behaviors are different from expected.

In this Year of the Nurse and Midwife, let us remind one another of what Florence Nightingale experienced 165 years ago as she led a small group of nurses to care for the wounded in Crimea. Together, we honor her legacy and our shared profession by rising to the challenge before us with the same energy and passion.

Moving forward, we will need to call upon our commitment to personal and professional discipline. We will need all of the professional resilience we can summon. We acknowledge that bold and definitive decisions will need to be made with limited resources during this unprecedented period. We commit to supporting you as best we can by following evidenced-based standards per CDC, communicating openly and honestly, and listening to your concerns and suggestions.

We admire your dedication in this uncertain time. We honor your courage to stay in the fight. Thank you for being the right leaders at the forefront of this battle against COVID-19.

With deepest respect,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Jeff Watson".

Jeff Watson, DNP, RN, NEA-BC  
President, TNA

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Tim Howell".

Tim Howell, DNP, RN, CENP  
President, TONL

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Kathy Shipp".

Kathy Shipp, MSN, APRN, FNP  
President, TBON