

TDCJ IS SPREADING COVID-19 INTENTIONALLY AND/OR NEGLIGENTLY

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On January 21, 2020, the identification of the Corona Virus (Covid-19) hit the World Stage as a respiratory infection with cold like symptoms that was highly contagious and deadly; and the infection was spreading worldwide as rapidly as a wildfire in a dry pine forest; leaving people around the globe sick and dying. The Texas Department of Criminal Justice and the University of Texas Medical Branch's Correctional Managed Health Care (UTMB) were well aware of the emerging pandemic, but failed and/or refused to promulgate policies to prevent the spread of Covid19 throughout the Texas prison System, which houses approximately 150,000 prisoners, in 108 prisons across the State.

TDCJ/UTMB knew or should have known that the introduction of Covid19 into a prison would rapidly spread throughout the prison; where men and women, guards and those being guarded live and work in close proximity to each other, 24 hours a day and 365 days a year. There is no such thing as social distancing in prison where 2 men/women live in a 6x9 cell with as many as 27 cells to a row and as many as 4 rows of cells stacked on top of each other in a cellblock, or in dormitories which hold 30-80, 6x9 cubicles with 4' privacy partitions between each cubicle, in which prisoners are housed and share a common dayroom (for watching T.V.) and common restrooms.

Once a prison became infected the prison was not quarantined and inter-facility transfers occurred from prisons whose population had been infected to prisons which had no suspected infection and from UTMB Hospital Galveston, where prisoners with serious infections were sent, back to Units which had no reported infection. The prisoners being transferred from a prison/unit that had confirmed cases of Covid19 were not quarantined at the receiving Unit, but were instead placed directly into general population. Furthermore, where guards had been infected they were given sick-leave and prisons became short staffed at infected Units, causing guards from non-infected Units to be forced to work overtime at the nearby infected Units and then return to the non-infected Units without going through any quarantine period. In fact inmates and guards came from Betol Unit and Telford Unit as well as Hospital Galveston to the Powledge Unit without being quarantined; despite Betol, Telford, and Hospital Galveston being among the most heavily infected Units and among the first to report inmate deaths from Covid19.

As late as March 24, 2020, TDCJ/UTMB were issuing disciplinary case to prisoners for refusing medical appointments at Betol, Estelle, and Hospital Galveston despite the inmates' fears of being exposed to Covid19. and on March 20, 2020 the prisoners were told to evacuate the Chow hall at 3:45 p.m. and the Powledge Unit went under temporary lock-down in order to transfer

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an inmate suspected of having Covid19 from Beto1 into the infirmary of the Powledge Unit. On March 23, 2020 second case from Beto1 sent to the Powledge Unit infirmary and on April 14, 2020, an inmate was transferred from Hospital Galveston to the Powledge Unit and placed into 15 dorm 6 bunk (general population) without going through quarantine.

Between inter-Unit-transfers, suspected positive cases being transferred to any Unit with a open infirmary bed, and guards doing overtime at infected Units and returning to non-infected Units without going through quarantine ^{TDCJ} has placed the entire TDCJ prison population to ~~potential infection through intentional~~ ~~negligence~~ at risk ~~for potential infection~~ while spreading Covid19 from one prison unit to another, and on May 5, 2020, the Powledge Unit's 1 block and ~~2 block~~ 4 block went on lock-down, due to a female guard ~~being~~ suspected of being infected with Covid19 and potentially exposing fellow guards and the Units inmates to infection after she had worked over-time at the Telford Unit, in New Boston, Texas; Where the first inmate died of COVID-19, in Texas.

As of June 5, 2020, 42 prisoners and 36 guards have died of COVID-19; over 6,000 have been confirmed as being infected, over 4,000 are suspected as being infected and a little over 1,000 have reportedly recovered from infection. "But" the numbers will rise as the Governor's Task Force begins testing of every prisoner in the Texas Prison System.

The fact is Texas intentionally and/or negligently spread the virus through continued transfer of prisoners from one prison to another without using quarantine procedures and through having guards perform overtime at infected facilities and returning to non-infected facilities without being quarantined.