



## COVID-19 Employee and Offender Status Update.

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AUSTIN, TX (May 12, 2020) – The Board of Pardons and Paroles (BPP) continues to monitor and take necessary precautions to prevent and mitigate the spread of the coronavirus and maintain agency duties and operations.

The Board continues to take appropriate action to mitigate the potential exposure to others including following the Centers for Disease Control guidelines for management of COVID-19 in all BPP offices/facilities. Actions include distribution of disinfectant, hand sanitizer and personal protective equipment (PPE) to all its staff throughout the state. While masks are optional for those in administrative settings and hearing officers in the field, masks continue to be required for all personnel working at prison units. BPP staff is encouraged to take extra steps to clean and disinfect common areas and shared equipment as well as practice strong personal hygiene inside the workplace and out.

BPP has previously reported two employees in the Huntsville Institutional Parole Office have tested positive for COVID-19; at this time, these are the only staff who have been confirmed with the virus – both have since recovered. As the Board learns of new positive tests within the agency, additional information will be posted on this website.

BPP continues to render discretionary decisions in accordance with statutory requirements. Parole panels look at each case individually and decisions are based on the totality of information. COVID-19 has not stopped the parole review process. Files are reviewed and interviews with family members, attorneys and victims are primarily being conducted by teleconference or videoconference. Additionally, the Board is continuing to utilize Rehabilitation Programs that are completed within the prison facilities prior to release on many parole approvals.

The Board of Pardons and Paroles, established by the Texas Constitution, decides which eligible offenders to release on parole, the conditions for parole and whether to revoke parole if conditions are not met, as well as recommendation of resolution of clemency matters to the Governor. For more information, please visit: <https://www.tdcj.state.tx.us/bpp/index.htm>.