



TEXAS TECH UNIVERSITY  
HEALTH SCIENCES CENTER.

Student Government Association

TEXAS TECH UNIVERSITY HEALTH SCIENCES CENTER

Senate Resolution 20.18

(Stating the continued sentiments of the Student Senate regarding TTUHSC placing signage to reduce the spread of infectious disease)

WHEREAS, TTUHSC has the responsibility to protect the health and wellbeing of patients, physicians, students, faculty, and staff, and

WHEREAS, peer-reviewed studies conclude that environmental surface swabs have shown the presence of both viral<sup>1</sup> and bacterial<sup>2</sup> contamination on elevator buttons, and elevator buttons are considered to be an unrecognized source of bacterial colonization in hospitals,<sup>2</sup> and

WHEREAS, pressing contemporary pathogens such as the COVID-19 virus have been shown to remain stable on surfaces from hours to days, especially on plastics and metals,<sup>3</sup> and

WHEREAS, it is impossible to reach 100% compliance for frequent and thorough hand-washing, and

WHEREAS, vulnerable patient populations and the healthcare workers who care for them frequent the elevators at TTUHSC, and

WHEREAS, hitting elevator buttons with elbows instead of fingers will prevent transmission of infectious agents from the buttons to people's faces, and

WHEREAS, several TTUHSC physicians and Dean of Medicine, Dr. Steven Berk, have expressed support for signage encouraging people to press the elevator buttons with their elbows, and

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, that the Student Senate of Texas Tech University Health Science Center calls for permanent and noticeable signage in elevators encouraging people to press the elevator buttons with their elbows instead of their fingers, thereby reducing the spread of transmissible diseases.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that this resolution be spread upon the Journal and that copies be sent to **Lori Rice-Spearman**, Interim President of Texas Tech University Health Sciences Center; **Ashley Hamm**, Interim Vice President of Communications and Marketing; and **Amanda Graham**, Director of Marketing.

Authors: WILLMS, J; PAYBERAH, D; BISCHOF (SAPPINGTON), R; PARKER, C

CC: Journal

Read First Time: 07 April 2020  
Reported from Committee:  
Read Second Time:

TEXAS TECH UNIVERSITY  
Passed the Senate, 07 APRIL 2020



---

Tobi Saliu  
President, Student Senate

## REFERENCES:

<sup>1</sup>Wu, Henry M., et al. "A norovirus outbreak at a long-term-care facility: the role of environmental surface contamination." *Infection Control & Hospital Epidemiology* 26.10 (2005): 802-810.

<sup>2</sup>Kandel, Christopher E., Andrew E. Simor, and Donald A. Redelmeier. "Elevator buttons as unrecognized sources of bacterial colonization in hospitals." *Open Medicine* 8.3 (2014): e81.

<sup>3</sup>"New Coronavirus Stable for Hours on Surfaces." *National Institutes of Health, U.S. Department of Health and Human Services*, 17 Mar. 2020, [www.nih.gov/news-events/news-releases/new-coronavirus-stable-hours-surfaces](http://www.nih.gov/news-events/news-releases/new-coronavirus-stable-hours-surfaces).

*Prototype sign design:*

