



Main concerns about Equinox Gold's response to measures taken with workers to prevent the spread of the coronavirus

- The mining company summoned its workers, who came from other regions and states, without having adequate facilities for their stay and shelter, while they were being PCR tested. Their call was hasty, to the extent that around 500 people attended the first call, without having any accommodations. The community of Carrizalillo did not accept the proposal to offer them shelter, fearing that several people would not present symptoms, but that they would be carriers of the coronavirus. Their fear was founded because the results confirmed their health status.
- Faced with this situation, the company Equinox Gold had to pay for rooms in some hotels in Mezcala to accommodate the workers, without implementing any preventive measures during their stay.
- The first test they applied was the clearest demonstration of this lack of prevention. Out of 170 applications, 42 turned out to be positive. Most seriously, two superintendents working inside the mine also tested positive for PCR. This situation alarmed both subcontracted and unionized workers, because the contagion had gotten out of control.
- Those who tested positive did not find an appropriate place to stay. The company decided to return them to their homes outside the region and the state. Their transfer was in company vehicles, without ensuring that their homes covered the rules of confinement, putting their family members at risk.
- From this first test it is known that the laboratories delivered the results of 51 people who tested positive for PCR. Of the following tests, the number of positive people is unknown, due to a backlog of cases that have been reported by laboratories, and which results have been delayed.
- The communities of Carrizalillo, Xochipala and Mezcala have had to close access to their communities, as an extreme measure to avoid the proliferation of the contagion. Even so, there are cases of local workers who have had to isolate themselves because they tested positive for COVID-19. For this reason, the communities are demanding that health modules be installed in the three communities with appropriate equipment and specialized doctors, to give attention to patients who present symptoms of the coronavirus.
- Equinox Gold summoned massively and hastily the workers, and this situation went out of control. It did not anticipate that most people were asymptomatic and did not organize adequately to shelter people who tested positive in appropriate facilities and to comply with the quarantine.
- When Covid-19 positive workers were returned home, the responsibility to protect themselves was left to on their own, without any commitment from the company to protect the workers and their families. Therefore, there is an urgent need for further testing, not only of all unionized and subcontracted workers, but of all inhabitants of the three communities, to identify the size of the contagion and to contain its spread.

**Sincerely,
Tlachinollan Human Rights Center**