

# CAHCF/CCAL

Connecticut Association of Health Care Facilities  
Connecticut Center for Assisted Living

*LeadingAge*<sup>™</sup>  
Connecticut

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

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## **In Battle to Fight Coronavirus Pandemic, We Must Support our Courageous Nursing Home Caregivers as State Releases New Nursing Home COVID-19 Data**

**Hartford, CT**---The Connecticut Association of Health Care Facilities (CAHCF), the state's largest nursing home association, and LeadingAge Connecticut, the association of nonprofit nursing homes and other providers of aging services, are asking that the nursing home data released today be used primarily to direct support to the courageous caregiving efforts of our state's nursing homes and to help stop the spread of the coronavirus.

It is important to understand that the spread of Covid-19 within Connecticut nursing homes is a reflection of the pernicious character of the virus and is in no way a reflection of the quality of the nursing home or the care it provides.

We now know that this insidious virus can be carried and spread by people who show no symptoms. And once it enters a building, it becomes very difficult to contain. Our best efforts to defend against its entry have been breached and the tools and guidance we have been given to contain it have continued to change, sometimes on a daily basis, as the medical experts learn more about the science and behavior of the disease.

Matthew Barrett, President and CEO of CAHCF said, "Connecticut nursing homes have followed all of the guidance and best practices made available by state and federal authorities to keep Covid-19 from entering the building. The data continues to show that Covid-19 is making its way indiscriminately into nursing homes in Connecticut and across the Nation. This means that nursing home operators and employees who are doing all the right things will have to battle the virus through no fault of their own. We must focus on these heroic efforts and use the data to win the battle."

Every day, nursing home staff do their part to aggressively prevent and mitigate the spread, while delivering compassionate care under challenging circumstances. Connecticut's nursing homes are now caring for hundreds of older adults who are battling this virus and are serving as a pillar within the health care system's plan of defense against the pandemic.

Mag Morelli, President of LeadingAge Connecticut said, "Nursing homes are serving a vital role in the health care response to this virus and nursing home staff is on the front line. They must be

prioritized for PPE and testing supplies -- particularly as nursing homes statewide have assumed increased responsibilities as partners to hospitals in caring for COVID-19 patients. The data should inform these supply decisions.

The associations have been working in partnership with the state and with our colleagues across the field of health care to battle this pandemic, yet the pervasiveness of this virus, the limited supplies and the limits on testing have led to the spreading of the virus among the workforce and residents. There is no doubt that COVID-19 virus is taking a toll on nursing home residents and the dedicated staff providing care, yet we remain committed to turning this pandemic around.

This and other data that is collected from throughout the health care sector must be used to fight the enemy that is Covid-19. We are proud of our role in fighting this battle and we urge statewide support for those who are on the frontlines caring for our most vulnerable older adults during this unparalleled health care crisis.

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