



**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE - May 20, 2020**

**Statement of the Matt Barrett, President and CEO the Connecticut Association of Health Care Facilities (CAHCF) and Mag Morelli, President of LeadingAge Connecticut on Governor Lamont's Release of Findings of Deficiency in Infection Control in Nursing Homes:**

The Connecticut Department of Public Health, accompanied by the National Guard and the Centers for Disease Control, have now conducted multiple, on-site and unannounced inspections at each of Connecticut's nursing homes over the last several weeks. These inspections continue to be conducted and have been solely focused on infection control. We believe that our state is well ahead of any other state in the union in accomplishing this level of inspection.

We believe Connecticut nursing homes are performing at an extraordinary level given the challenges of fighting this insidious virus while faced with changing guidance, an inadequate PPE supply chain and a statewide testing initiative that has only recently begun. And while we would prefer that these focused inspections did not result in any findings, we absolutely welcome the Department's oversight and efforts in ensuring that Connecticut nursing home infection control procedures are in adherence with the latest of what has been ever changing CDC guidance.

Today the state announced that findings from these infection control focused inspections will begin to be posted on the agency website. For the purpose of background and to help the public better understand the postings, we offer the following additional information:

- The nursing home inspection process may lead to a finding by the inspector and these findings are termed deficiencies. In that these inspections are focused on infection control; you can expect that any findings resulting from these inspections would be related to infection control.
- When inspection findings are presented to the nursing home, the home must respond with a plan of correction that is submitted to the state. We encourage anyone viewing a nursing home's inspection report to also view the plan of correction.
- The nursing home is also given the opportunity to dispute a finding and there is an official process in place to hear those objections. Frequently the disputed findings are reversed. Therefore, if someone views a nursing home's findings and the associated plan of correction on the website, they may see that there has been an objection raised by the nursing home that is awaiting the resolution process. That is why it is important to view the plan of correction.

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