



# Oregon

Kate Brown, Governor

Department of Human Services

*Aging and People with Disabilities*

500 Summer St. NE, E-02

Salem, OR 97301

**March 20, 2020**

**To:** All Licensed Nursing Facilities  
All Licensed Residential Care Facilities  
All Licensed Assisted Living Facilities



**Re: Appreciation for your efforts and statewide review results**

**Dear Providers:**

I am writing to express my deep gratitude for your partnership in implementing several new and ambitious prevention measures in the past few weeks, as we all seek to stave off incidents of COVID-19. The responsibility on all our shoulders is great. I know we're all feeling the strain as we make extremely difficult decisions about the right thing to do on behalf of the approximately 40,000 Oregonians statewide who rely upon long-term care in your settings.

We appreciate your flexibility as we have formalized increasingly restrictive visitor policies. We know these restrictions place the largest burden on facility staff, who are in the difficult position of turning away residents' family and friends.

We are also thankful for your collaboration in completing reviews of emergency and infection control plans and your participation in reporting suspected cases of COVID-19.

I wanted to take this opportunity to share the results of these efforts, as I believe they reflect the good work that is done in long-term care every day.

DHS began the emergency and infection control reviews on March 6<sup>th</sup> before jumping into high gear on March 9<sup>th</sup> and completing on March 13<sup>th</sup>. I'm pleased to report the following:

- 616 (91%) of the facilities sufficiently documented, and demonstrated, appropriate infection control and emergency planning practices.
- 54 (8%) required additional technical assistance.
- Seven (1%) facilities could not be reviewed physically; alternative review methods were employed

*"Assisting People to Become Independent, Healthy and Safe"*

We appreciate the fast efforts made by the 54 facilities to implement additional readiness preparation.

Separately, we've seen an equal level of commitment to report suspected cases of COVID-19 to us. Thank you for your compliance with this directive. Reporting suspected cases allows additional protocols to be put in place in case a resident was ultimately diagnosed with the disease.

As of writing this note:

- 78 facilities have reported suspected cases to DHS.
- Two facilities had confirmed cases.
- 15 others received negative test results.
- 61 are currently pending.

We are aware that reporting suspected cases of COVID-19 not only brings about additional regulatory oversight, but may cause anxiety for the very people you serve. It is our desire to strike the right balance and maintain the public's confidence that everything possible is being done to prevent the spread of COVID-19.

I know that all of us are very concerned that the consequences of this pandemic will have a disproportionate impact on the people we serve. Our goal is to continue to work side-by-side with you to do everything within our control. Once again, I want to thank each of you, as well as the Oregon Health Care Association and Leading Age Oregon for the tremendous partnership during this unprecedented crisis.

With gratitude,



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Michael McCormick, Interim Director  
Aging and People with Disabilities Program  
Department of Human Services