

## Press Releases

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### DPH Preparing for Possible Labor Strikes at 20 Connecticut Nursing Homes

## **Health Officials Receive Official Strike Notices from 20 Nursing Homes; Department Charged with Credentialing Replacement Workers and Inspecting Facilities for Health and Safety During Strike**

The Connecticut Department of Public Health today is making preparations for potential strikes at 20 Connecticut nursing homes following official notices received from each of these facilities that a labor strike could begin as early as 6:00 a.m. on Wednesday, May 1, 2019. A complete list of the facilities follows at the end of this news release. According to state and federal laws, the Connecticut Department of Public Health has two primary responsibilities related to labor actions at licensed nursing care facilities. Those include 1) review and approve credentials of all replacement workers the facilities wish to hire to offset loss of personnel due to the strike; and 2) conduct unannounced daily site visits to every nursing home experiencing a strike to ensure that quality standards for safety and patient care are being upheld during the course of the strike. As part of the inspection process, department inspectors will review staffing, observe patient care, review medical records and ensure that adequate supplies are available.

“We at the Department of Public Health are hoping that both labor and management at these nursing homes can come to agreement so a strike can be avoided, but if a strike occurs, we will be ready to do our duty in accordance with state and federal law,” said Connecticut Public Health Commissioner Renée D. Coleman-Mitchell. “We are currently reviewing credentials of replacement workers and we are preparing to conduct health and safety inspections at these nursing care facilities should a strike commence on May 1st. These preparations include creating a pool of facility inspectors from within DPH to conduct as many on-site monitoring inspections as needed at any time of day during a strike. We want to reassure families of patients who might be impacted that we will be vigilant and do what is necessary to make sure your loved ones are receiving proper care for the duration of this labor action.”

Pursuant to Connecticut law, nursing care facilities are required to submit strike contingency plans to DPH at least five days prior to the beginning of a strike. DPH has responsibility to review those plans to determine if facilities have made adequate arrangements to continue providing patients with uninterrupted services during any strike action.

DPH has the statutory authority to take emergency action against non-compliant providers. Depending on the severity of the violation, DPH can impose sanctions up to and including: prohibiting nursing homes from admitting new patients, limiting the license of a nursing home in any aspect, such as reducing licensed capacity, or ordering the emergency transfer of patients from a nursing home to another nursing home or hospital. In extreme cases the department can petition a Superior Court judge to appoint a receiver to oversee all operations at a particular facility if conditions are found to jeopardize the health, safety and welfare of patients. The department has been informed that the potential strike on May 1 could impact nearly 3,000 nursing home patients in facilities throughout Connecticut.

Members of the public who have questions or concerns about care provided in a nursing home or who want more information about the department's monitoring activities can call the Department's Facility Licensing Division at **860-509-7400** or send an email to [DPH.strike.info@ct.gov](mailto:DPH.strike.info@ct.gov)

The following Nursing Homes have given DPH a Strike Notice:

<u>Facility</u>	City/Town
Advanced Center for Nursing and Rehabilitation	New Haven
Autumn Lake Healthcare at Bucks Hill	Waterbury
Autumn Lake Healthcare at Cromwell	Cromwell
Autumn Lake Healthcare at New Britain	New Britain
Autumn Lake Healthcare at Norwalk	Norwalk
Bloomfield Center for Nursing and Rehabilitation	Bloomfield
Chelsea Place Care Center, LLC	Hartford
Fresh River Healthcare East	Windsor
Maple View Health & Rehabilitation Center	Rocky Hill
Orange Health Care Center	Orange
Silver Springs Care Center	Meriden
Three Rivers	Norwich
Touchpoints at Bloomfield	Bloomfield
Touchpoints at Chestnut	East Windsor
Touchpoints at Farmington	Farmington
Touchpoints at Manchester	Manchester
Trinity Hill Care Center	Hartford West
West Hartford Health & Rehabilitation Center	Hartford
Westside Care Center, LLC	Manchester
Windsor Health and Rehabilitation Center, LLC	Windsor