

Connecticut's LTC COVID-19 Response

Mairead Painter
State Long-Term Care Ombudsman



Timeline of what has happened in CT

- ▶ 3-9-20: Memo issued to nursing and convalescent homes on visitor restrictions
- ▶ 3-13-20: Executive Order No. 7A Order to nursing home facilities, residential care homes, and chronic disease hospitals implementing 30-day visitor restrictions
- ▶ 3-27-20: State Ombudsman began doing Facebook Live events
- ▶ 4-11-20: Order modifying regulations regarding alternate COVID-19 recovery facilities
- ▶ 4-19-20: Governor Lamont Expands Financial Aid for Connecticut's Nursing Homes Amid COVID-19 Pandemic, Announces Nursing Home Site Visits to Extend Additional Support From State
- ▶ 4-21-20: Order extending the date of visitor restrictions at nursing homes, residential care homes and chronic disease hospitals
- ▶ 5-9-20: Memo issued to nursing and convalescent homes on visitor restrictions

- ▶ 5-27-20: Governor Lamont signs 46th executive order
 - ▶ Permits the creation of a temporary nurse aide position
- ▶ 6-1-20: Governor Lamont signs 48th executive order
 - ▶ Mandatory COVID-19 testing for staff of private and municipal nursing homes, residential communities and assisted living agencies: Requires all staff of these facilities to be tested for COVID-19 weekly for the duration of the public health and civil preparedness emergency.
- ▶ 6-5-20: Suspension of the involuntary discharge of nursing facility residents and residential care home residents who may be discharged to homeless shelters, except during emergency situations or with respect to COVID-19 recovered discharges
- ▶ 6-8-20: Governor Lamont Orders Independent Analysis of COVID-19 in Connecticut's Nursing Homes and Assisted Living Facilities

- ▶ 6-17-20: Governor Lamont signs 54th executive order to mitigate the spread of COVID-19 - Mandatory COVID-19 testing for staff of private and municipal nursing home facilities, managed residential communities, and assisted living services agencies
 - ▶ Modifies to set conditions for testing to cease after 14 consecutive days without a positive case and to require resumed testing if any staff member or resident tests positive.
- ▶ 6-24-20: Governor Lamont, Governor Cuomo, and Governor Murphy Announce Joint Incoming Travel Advisory That All Individuals Traveling From States With Significant Community Spread of COVID-19 Self-Quarantine for 14 Days
- ▶ 7-7-20: Governor Lamont announces Mathematica Policy Research selected to conduct top-to-bottom review of COVID-19 in long-term care facilities - Mathematica Policy Research will: Assess the overall impact of the COVID-19 Pandemic in Connecticut compared to other states in the region and the country

- ▶ 7-20-20: DPH Commissioner Gifford Announces Concerns With Covid-19 Testing Procedures and Some False Positive Tests
 - ▶ Most Residents Impacted Were SNF and AL Residents
- ▶ 7-21-20: Governor Lamont Signs 62nd Executive Order Strengthening Self-Quarantine Requirements When Entering Connecticut From High-Risk States
 - ▶ Repeal of Advisory Self-Quarantine - Mandatory Self-Quarantine for Travelers From States With High COVID-19 Infection Levels
- ▶ 8-6-20: State will continue covering costs of COVID-19 testing at long-term care facilities at least an additional two months through October 31st
- ▶ 8-18-20: Lamont administration receives interim report on COVID-19 in Connecticut's long-term care facilities - "Preliminary assessment of the state's response found that state officials made policy decisions and issued guidance based on the available knowledge at the time from national and state epidemiologists and public health experts, but that knowledge was undermined by gaps in the scientific understanding of the virus." - Patricia Rowan, researcher at Mathematica

- ▶ 8-27-20: Connecticut Department of Public Health acting commissioner issues order expanding nursing home visitations
 - ▶ Connecticut Department of Public Health issues citations against two nursing homes for violating governor's COVID-19 testing order
 - ▶ Department of Public Health investigating COVID-19 outbreak at Three Rivers Nursing Home in Norwich
- ▶ 9-1-20: Governor Lamont Extends Connecticut's State of Emergency in Response To the COVID-19 Pandemic To February 9
- ▶ 9-8-20: Governor Lamont signs 69th executive order to mitigate the spread of COVID-19. Executive Order No. 9A enacts the following provisions:
 - ▶ Reissuance and extension of COVID-19 executive orders to November 9, 2020
 - ▶ This includes Immunity and Visitation

CT LTCOP Advocacy amidst COVID-19

- ▶ Continued daily casework by phone, video, window & outdoor visits
 - ▶ Filing complaints with DPH when appropriate
- ▶ Ongoing calls with state partners & other advocacy groups
 - ▶ Ensuring residents and family members voices are heard on policy changes, new orders and impact of COVID related measures
- ▶ Connecting residents and family members information
 - ▶ Regular updates to our website and Facebook
 - ▶ SO letters, FAQ's, Best Practices, CMS, DPH and other links
- ▶ Facebook Live events
 - ▶ Was M,W & F at 5:30pm – now just Wednesdays

Ombudsman have been focusing on:

- ▶ Visitation restrictions
 - ▶ Meaningful visits that meet the residents needs
 - ▶ Regular access to loved ones
 - ▶ Compassionate Care Visits
- ▶ Isolation impact
 - ▶ Resident decline
- ▶ Access to appropriate medical services for nursing home residents'
 - ▶ Nursing Home staffing levels
 - ▶ Nursing & CNA
 - ▶ Social Work and Recreation for social and emotional support
 - ▶ Access to essential care for the entire person
 - ▶ Dentist, Podiatrist, Optometrist, Mental Health
- ▶ COVID Recovery Facilities
 - ▶ tracking each resident and ensuring return to their home of origin