



COMMONWEALTH OF PENNSYLVANIA
DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH

June 19, 2020

The Honorable Steve Scalise
Ranking Member
Select Subcommittee on the Coronavirus Crisis
2157 Rayburn House Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20515-6143

Dear Ranking Member Scalise:

Thank you for your letter dated June 15, 2020 expressing your concerns over the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania's response to COVID-19 in nursing homes. Protecting vulnerable residents in nursing homes has been one of the highest priorities for my Administration since the beginning of our response. Our three-pillar response includes:

- Ensuring resident safety through education, resources and testing;
- Preventing and mitigating outbreaks; and
- Working in partnership with state agencies, local health departments and long-term care facility operators.

The Administration is proud of the unprecedented collaboration across the Department of Health (DOH), Department of Human Services (DHS), Department of Aging (PDA), Pennsylvania Insurance Department (PID) and the Ombudsman to keep residents in all Long-Term Care Facilities (LTCF) safe over the course of our COVID-19 response. Based on the Commonwealth's latest data, that collaboration in addition to effective collaboration with the facilities, associations, academic partners, and industry leaders have resulted in a decline in cases among LTCF residents. We have worked hard to not only accomplish our mission but to be transparent with the public about how we have done so.

DOH provides daily updates on LTCF cases and deaths for residents and staff, as well as other valuable data, online. DOH issues daily press reports that have additional information, and we recommend signing up for Alert PA, which will provide real-time information about what is happening in the Commonwealth. A summary of the DOH's actions to date is attached.

Thank you again for your interest in this topic. Please consider this to be a complete and final response to your inquiry.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'RL Levine'.

Rachel L. Levine, MD
Secretary of Health

Enclosure: Update on LTCF Prevention-Mitigation Activities- 6.19.2020