

Governor Lamont announces medical surge plan in collaboration with Connecticut's long-term care facilities

April 1, 2020

Governor's press release

Governor Lamont today announced that his administration is collaborating with Connecticut's long-term care facilities on a medical surge plan that will involve moving some residents and the creation of dedicated spaces for residents who are COVID-19 positive.

As the number of individuals who are diagnosed with COVID-19 rises, the health care system will be stretched to extremes. Compounding this challenge is the fact that the elderly population will be at greater risk when diagnosed as being positive for COVID-19.

Nursing homes are an essential component of the medical surge plan. It includes the following options:

1. **Separation of COVID-19 positive residents:** Anyone diagnosed as COVID-19 positive in a hospital and later admitted to a nursing home will be monitored and assessed for 14 days in an area that only has other COVID-19 positive residents. Anyone admitted who is negative for COVID-19 will be housed with other residents who are negative, as a mitigation measure.
2. **Dedication of space:** Existing nursing homes will dedicate specific units that will group together residents who have been diagnosed as being COVID-19 positive, where applicable.
3. **Conversion of existing nursing homes:** Residents of some long-term care facilities who either test negative for COVID-19 or display no symptoms will be able to voluntarily transfer to facilities where there are no COVID-19 positive residents. At the same time, some facilities will be converted to only house individuals who are COVID-19 positive and dedicate their new admissions to individuals who have been diagnosed positive. This concept also includes a facility who has a dedicated entrance to a unit within the structure that can physically isolate all care and services from normal operations. For existing nursing home conversions, individuals who are not positive for COVID-19 and/or asymptomatic will all be voluntarily transferred to the receiving destination *prior* to that facility accepting any individuals who are COVID-19 positive.
4. **Development of new alternate care sites:** New spaces are identified that are currently vacant and in several cases have been vacated through recent nursing home closures. These sites would be licensed as chronic and convalescent nursing homes and the request would be made to the federal Centers for Medicare and Medicaid (CMS) for an 1135 waiver for rapid certification. These alternate care sites, too, would be dedicated to the care of individuals positive for COVID-19. Alternate care sites developed will be inspected and approved by the Department of Public Health (DPH).

DPH can also provide support regarding access to and moving of equipment, staffing and logistics.

| Town | Nursing Home |
|------------------|----------------------------------------------------|
| Bloomfield | Bloomfield Healthcare Center |
| Bloomfield | Caleb Hitchcock Health Center |
| Bloomfield | Touchpoints at Bloomfield |
| Bridgeport | Jewish Living Center |
| Canton | Cherry Brook Health Care Center |
| Danbury | Glen Hill Center |
| East Haven | Whispering Pines Rehabilitation and Nursing Center |
| Greenwich | Greenwich Woods Rehabilitation |
| Greenwich | Nathaniel Witherell |
| Guilford | Guilford House |
| Milford | Golden Hill Rehab Pavilion |
| Naugatuck | Glendale Center |
| New Haven | Grimes Center |
| New London | Harbor Village Health and Rehabilitation |
| Newington | Bel-Air Manor |
| Portland | Portland Care and Rehabilitation |
| Rocky Hill | Apple Rehab Rocky Hill |
| Seymour | Shady Knoll Health Center |
| Sharon | Sharon Health Care Center |
| Shelton | Apple Rehab Shelton Lakes |
| Shelton | Bishop Wicke Health and Rehabilitation |
| Shelton | Gardner Heights Health Care Center |
| Stafford Springs | Evergreen Health Care Center |
| Stamford | St. Camillus Center |
| Suffield | Suffield House |
| Torrington | RegalCare at Torrington |
| Torrington | Wolcott Hall |

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|------------|----------------------------------------------|
| Trumbull | Maefair Health Care Center |
| Waterbury | Abbott Terrace Health Center |
| Waterbury | RegalCare at Waterbury |
| Waterbury | Waterbury Gardens Nursing and Rehabilitation |
| Waterford | Bayview Health Care |
| Wilton | Wilton Meadows |
| Windsor | Kimberly Hall North |
| Windsor | Windsor Health and Rehabilitation |
| Woodbridge | The Willows |

The Department of Social Services and the Office of Policy and Management have determined a specific payment rate for options 3 and 4. Options 3 and 4 would also require providers to submit a written proposal to DPH prior to approval that will need to address staffing patterns, equipment needs and detail system supports that will be provided such as environmental and food services, among others.

Options 3 and 4 will create additional bed space for 1,175 people. The following nursing homes have been identified as potential sites:

Option 3 (conversion of existing facilities)

- Evergreen Health Care (Stafford Springs, 180 Beds)
- Sharon Health Care (Sharon, 88 Beds)
- Touchpoints of Farmington (Farmington, 120 Beds)
- Touchpoints of Bloomfield (Bloomfield, 30 Beds)
- Greenwich Woods (Greenwich, 217)
- **Total beds in option 3: 635**

Option 4 (new alternate sites)

- Old Greenwich Civic Center (Greenwich, 90 Beds)
- Silver Hill Hospitals (New Caanan, 90 Beds)
- Westfield (Meriden, 120 Beds)
- Green Springs (East Hartford, 120 Beds)
- Vacant Nursing Home in Region 5 (120 Beds)
- **Total beds in option 4: 540**

The following is the list of nursing homes in Connecticut with residents who have tested positive for COVID-19 as of April 1, 2020 at 11:00 a.m.: