

Sen. Sampson, Rob

From: Buckley, Karen <buckley@chime.org>
Sent: Monday, September 27, 2021 2:05 PM
To: Davis, Nolan
Cc: Sen. Sampson, Rob
Subject: RE: Letter from Senator Sampson requesting CHA response to questions
Attachments: COVID Hospitalizations and In-hospital Deaths by Age (09.24.21).pdf

Importance: High

Dear Senator Sampson,

Thank you for your letter seeking COVID-19 information pertaining to hospitalizations, deaths, and testing. Due to various privacy concerns, we cannot provide you with the level of detail requested in your letter. However, we can provide you with information that we hope you will find helpful. It is important to acknowledge that, since early 2020, Connecticut's hospitals and health systems have been at the center of the global public health emergency, acting as an essential partner in the state's response to COVID-19. Hospitals expanded critical care capacity, stood up countless community COVID-19 testing locations, and have been a vital component of the vaccine distribution plan. Through it all, hospitals and health systems have continued to provide high-quality care for everyone, regardless of ability to pay. This tireless commitment to the COVID-19 response confirms the value of strong hospitals in Connecticut's public health infrastructure and economy, and reinforces the need for a strong partnership between the state and hospitals.

Throughout the pandemic, CHA has worked with the state to ensure that necessary Executive Orders were in place to support the full spectrum of the public health response. We strongly support and advocate that the administration of the vaccination, utilization of masks and social distancing are the most effective ways to prevent the spread of the disease, as well as to minimize severity and associated hospitalizations. As you may know, CHA and its members hospitals, have played an integral role in the collection and reporting of the state's COVID-19 data and the reporting of hospital data to both the state and federal public health response agencies. As numbers change daily, any information we provide is just a snapshot in time. We offer the following information to inform your policy decision making:

- At the end of last week, Connecticut had 282 patients with COVID-19 in the hospital; the vast majority of those hospitalized were unvaccinated.
- Patients testing positive for COVID-19, no matter what brought them to the hospital in the first place, require a comprehensive baseline healthcare response, which is resource intensive in terms of staffing, with a required higher use rate for personal protective equipment, and implementation of patient safety routines.
- [HHS Protect website](#) provides a wealth of publicly available data, including on hospitalizations by county.
- We have attached a graph that provides you with Connecticut's aggregated in-hospital death data by age.
- Hospitalized patients with COVID-19 may be in an ICU or other inpatient bed. Their location within the hospital is primarily based on their care needs. HHS protect provides a breakdown of COVID-19 patients in ICUs.
- CHA, with its members, tracks the availability of hospital beds, available ICU beds and ventilators and reports this to the state and federal public health response agencies. You can find the publicly reported data for these items on HHS Protect.
- During the peak of the emergency for Connecticut, hospitals increased the number of available beds, including the addition of new ICU beds, to meet the surge of cases impacting Connecticut hospitals. As the number of cases declined, newly created beds were taken offline.
- Today's available staffed bed count for hospital beds is 7,343, with an admitted census of 6,257. The available staffed ICU bed count is 987, with an admitted ICU census of 575.
- During the upswing and peak of the Connecticut surges, Connecticut hospitals worked together to move patients and adjust staffing throughout the hospitals in Connecticut to ensure that patient healthcare needs

were met. This aspect of Connecticut’s response allowed significant flexibility, and resulted in Connecticut hospitals not having to turn patients away (as we’ve seen occur in other states).

- Connecticut hospitals and other healthcare providers use both antigen and PCR testing modalities from a variety of manufacturers. PCR testing is used most frequently and is generally more reliable. The FDA and CDC have information pages that provides details about the tests, their efficacy and pertinent use information:

[Overview of Testing for SARS-CoV-2 \(COVID-19\) | CDC](#)

[A Closer Look at COVID-19 Diagnostic Testing | FDA](#)

- COVID-19 testing is a key element in controlling the spread of the disease. We have seen that the implementation of COVID-19 screening tests in nursing homes, at colleges, and in healthcare settings is a tool for limiting the spread of COVID-19 through asymptomatic carriers. No screening test in healthcare is 100% accurate, but tests serve an important function in the healthcare system’s ability to control and track the spread of the disease.
- As updates from the state and federal governments become available, Connecticut’s hospitals have responded in a timely manner to ever changing guidance. Guidance is routinely updated based on the new and evolving science and the availability of data and information, as we all learn about this new novel virus.

I hope that you find this information helpful as you make important policy decisions related to the state’s COVID-19 response. CHA will continue to be an active partner with the state in fighting COVID-19.

Karen



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From: Davis, Nolan <Nolan.Davis@cga.ct.gov>
Sent: Thursday, September 23, 2021 10:49 AM
To: Buckley, Karen <buckley@chime.org>
Cc: Sen. Sampson, Rob <Rob.Sampson@cga.ct.gov>
Subject: Letter from Senator Sampson requesting CHA response to questions

Good morning,

Please find attached a letter from Senator Sampson containing several urgent questions that Senator Sampson is hoping the CHA can answer. The Senator would appreciate an expedited response to his questions before the special session that is planned for next Tuesday the 28th.

Sincerely,

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