



State of Connecticut

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January 12, 2022

Governor Ned Lamont
Office of the Governor
210 Capitol Avenue
Hartford, CT 06106

Manisha Juthani, MD
Commissioner DPH
410 Capitol Ave.
Hartford, CT 06106

Dear Governor Lamont and Commissioner Juthani:

Connecticut currently issues reports on the impact of COVID-19 in our nursing homes on a bi-weekly basis and publishes these reports every other Thursday. Considering your administration's guidance that nursing homes accept COVID-19 positive individuals into their facilities from hospitals, I urge the administration to immediately increase its reporting on nursing and release COVID-19 case data on a daily basis.

Any policy that knowingly introduces COVID-19 into nursing homes is not wise nor does it have the interests of nursing home residents top of mind. You must exercise an abundance of caution with this population, mindful of Connecticut's experience in 2020 and the recommendations of the Mathematica report. Should this policy remain in place, it is vital that we get real time information on virus spread in our nursing homes so that action can be taken immediately to save lives. To wait two weeks between reports as COVID-positive individuals are placed into our nursing homes creates a dangerous delay in information sharing.

Armed with the knowledge of the Mathematica report that detailed Connecticut's heart wrenching failure to protect nursing home residents in the early days of the pandemic, and the knowledge of what happened in New York, I am disappointed that Connecticut would continue with policies that do not prioritize the safety of nursing home residents. We must learn from the failures in our state and our neighboring states, and we must do everything we can to protect those most frail and vulnerable to this virus.

Please, listen to the voices of our seniors and their family members and reverse your guidance to nursing homes on accepting COVID-positive patients. Connecticut's most vulnerable seniors and their loved ones have been through hell already. I pray I am wrong and that our nursing homes remain safe.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Kevin C. Kelly".

Kevin C. Kelly
Senate Republican Leader