

Governor Newsom,

My name is Dr Michael Wasserman, I am the president of CALTCM, the California Association of Long Term Care Medicine, an organization representing geriatricians, medical directors, advance practice nurses, pharmacists and others providing clinical care to older adults living in nursing homes, assisted living facilities and group homes across the state. I'm a board certified geriatrician and editor-in-chief of an upcoming major geriatric medicine textbook. I was Executive Director for the Nursing Home arm of HSAG, the quality improvement organization under contract with CMS for the state of California. Recently, I was the CEO of the largest nursing home chain in California.

As you have recognized the importance of addressing the growing crisis in the long term care continuum, me and my healthcare peers stand ready to immediately provide assistance and support for your efforts.

It's been acknowledged that Nursing homes, assisted living facilities and group homes are the accelerators for the COVID19 infection. It is critical to literally put a "moat" around them in order to protect both the residents and the staff from unnecessary harm. Once this "moat" is formed, it will be much easier to reopen up the rest of the state.

We have three immediately actionable recommendations:

- First, we have made contact with a trusted and reliable source that can supply 10 million units of Personal Protective Equipment (PPE) to the state of California, to be used to protect residents and staff of nursing homes, assisted living facilities and group homes around the entire state. It would be our pleasure to connect you so that you can vet them yourselves.
- Second, CALTCM and the Infectious Disease Association of California's Boards recommend requiring that all nursing homes in the state immediately assure that their already designated infection preventionist (IP) be put on full-time status (or more for larger facilities). They are not to be pulled to perform any other duties other than infection control for the duration of this crisis.
- Third, please engage geriatricians, advance practice nurses, and geriatric pharmacists in all of your incident command teams. This is a pandemic that is particularly lethal in the older adult population and policy decisions need to include input from experts in geriatrics and long term care medicine.

I am requesting an opportunity to share our Long Term Care knowledge, I will make myself available per your schedule.

Appreciative of your time in reviewing my email and I look forward to speaking with you. I've attached this email in pdf form for you to share.

Sincerely,



Michael Wasserman, MD, CMD
President
California Association of Long Term Care Medicine