



For Immediate Release  
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## **Nursing Facility Residents and Staff Need Your Help**

The Health Care Association of Michigan (HCAM) is asking individuals to think of residents and staff in nursing facilities as the holidays approach. The greater number of cases in the community could directly impact resident health or the health of the staff they depend on for care.

“It is critical that everyone in our communities continue to be vigilant in the face of COVID-19,” said HCAM President/CEO Melissa Samuel. “If we don’t get in front of the spread in our communities, we are very concerned about what could happen in our nursing facilities. Following appropriate precautions like wearing a mask and social distancing will help protect residents and staff in Michigan’s skilled nursing facilities.”

“Facilities throughout the state have been fighting every day to protect residents from the virus and deserve our thanks and appreciation,” said Samuel. “Unfortunately, COVID-19 is finding its way into facilities through asymptomatic and pre-symptomatic individuals due to significant community spread. We know from public health research that the best way to control COVID-19 in nursing facilities is to control it in surrounding communities.”

COVID-19 cases and deaths in Michigan’s nursing facilities are lower than the national average. This is due the quality care being provided and as well as efforts of people in the community to mitigate the spread. We must continue these efforts.

Protocols and procedures are being developed right now to make sure that nursing facilities and their residents are among the first to have access to the vaccine. Our member facilities are ready to implement those plans as soon as the vaccine is approved.

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