



For Immediate Release  
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## **OHCA Supports Public Disclosure of COVID-19 Data in Skilled Nursing, Assisted Living, DD Settings**

### ***Long-Term Services and Supports Association Commends State Effort to Ensure Accurate Data***

COLUMBUS – The Ohio Health Care Association today reiterated its support for transparency and accuracy in state reporting of COVID-19 statistics at skilled nursing centers, assisted living communities, and facilities for people with intellectual and developmental disabilities. The association also noted that accuracy of the data is crucial both for informing families and for the state’s coordinated response to assist these facilities.

“Families and state officials need a complete picture of how COVID-19 is impacting our long-term services and supports providers to better understand the situation on the ground, and to provide the resources and support our members need to protect the lives of residents and employees,” said OHCA Executive Director Pete Van Runkle. “We appreciate that the state health officials are working hard to create a reporting process that will ensure the information released to the public is correct.”

“Long-term services and supports providers across Ohio are struggling to acquire PPE, and are facing rapidly escalating costs and a shortage of testing,” said Van Runkle. “They need critical resources and support from the state, and the state needs accurate information to address these needs.”

Last week, Van Runkle voiced the association’s support for ODH’s order requiring the reporting of positive COVID-19 cases at skilled nursing, assisted living, and developmental disabilities facilities within 24 hours of confirmation.

“Our members are working hard to protect the lives of Ohio’s most vulnerable residents from this insidious disease. We are in daily contact with officials of the Ohio Departments of Health and Medicaid, sharing our resource needs to battle the threats posed by COVID-19. We are confident the administration is hearing our pleas for assistance, and are grateful for Governor DeWine’s overall leadership during this crisis.”

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OHCA represents more than 1,100 long-term services and supports providers across Ohio. The association’s members include skilled nursing facilities, assisted living communities, home care and hospice agencies, and providers serving people with intellectual and developmental disabilities. LTSS providers serve an estimated 234,000 frail, elderly, and disabled Ohioans, and employ an estimated 260,000 workers. COVID-19 poses a direct risk to half a million Ohioans in the LTSS sector alone.