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Contact:

Paul Larrabee
PLarrabee@corningplace.com (NY)
518.491.7577

Lisa Sanders
LSanders@leadingage.org (National)
202.508.9407

**STATE AND NATIONAL SERVICE PROVIDERS APPRECIATE GOVERNOR CUOMO'S
ACTIONS SUPPORTING NURSING HOME RESIDENTS AND STAFF**

LeadingAge, the association of nonprofit providers of aging services, including nursing homes, and its affiliate, LeadingAge NY, support and appreciate Governor Andrew Cuomo's actions stemming from the impact and toll the COVID-19 virus is having on nursing home residents and the dedicated staff providing care.

The combined physical and emotional impact is mounting. For more than a month, visitations from family and friends have been restricted, and important social activities ranging from religious observances to game nights virtually eliminated.

Nursing homes are an integral component of the public health system. They offer a service unlike any provided in other care settings to older adult residents with complex health care needs and life-threatening conditions. The accommodation to allow for visitation at the end of life is both compassionate and appropriate.

Sadly, we are now seeing the incidence of COVID-related deaths increasing in nursing homes, consistent with data indicating the impact the virus has on older populations.

Among the key defenses against infection transmission in nursing homes is the use of suitable personal protective equipment (PPE) for nursing home staff and residents. However, the shortages are very real, and distribution networks overwhelmed.

Katie Smith Sloan, president and CEO of LeadingAge, said, "We have been working in partnership with LeadingAge New York as it battles the pandemic now at its apex. At the federal and state levels, we have urged that aging services providers be prioritized for PPE. From D.C., and here in New York State, LeadingAge is doing all we can to secure the necessary supplies to keep staff and residents safe, but the reality is that the supplies are not coming in fast enough to sufficiently address the need."

The pervasiveness of this virus and the limited supplies has led to the spreading of the virus among the workforce and residents, and the cascading impacts leading to staffing shortages, resulting in longer shifts and multiple days of duty without breaks in service.

James W. Clyne Jr., president and CEO of LeadingAge New York, said, “We are grateful that the Governor and the Department of Health have worked in partnership with us to share the limited resources with nursing home, assisted living and home care providers. And, we are pleased that the Governor has opened up the voluntary workforce brigade to nursing homes to help mitigate the devastating staffing shortages.”

“This fight is far from over, and we urge federal officials to prioritize the distribution of relief funds to ensure Medicaid providers in high-need areas, such as New York State, receive the critical financial support needed to protect our most vulnerable,” Clyne continued.

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