

# Long Term Care Facilities and HCCs: Increasing representation and participation

Long Term Care Transformation Office –  
Pennsylvania Department of Health

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Presented By:



**MESH**

# Learning Objectives

## **Learning Objective #1:**

"Upon completion of the presentation, the learner should be able to describe the value of a multidisciplinary team collaborative efforts in fostering emergency preparedness, response and resilience."

## **Learning Objective #2:**

"Upon completion of the presentation, the learner should be able to evaluate how effective partnerships improve preparedness planning and response capacity in their organization on multiple levels."

## **Learning Objective #3:**

"Upon completion of the presentation, the learner should be able to discuss best practices for building/maintaining partnerships to promote resilience/heighten capacity for efficient crisis response."



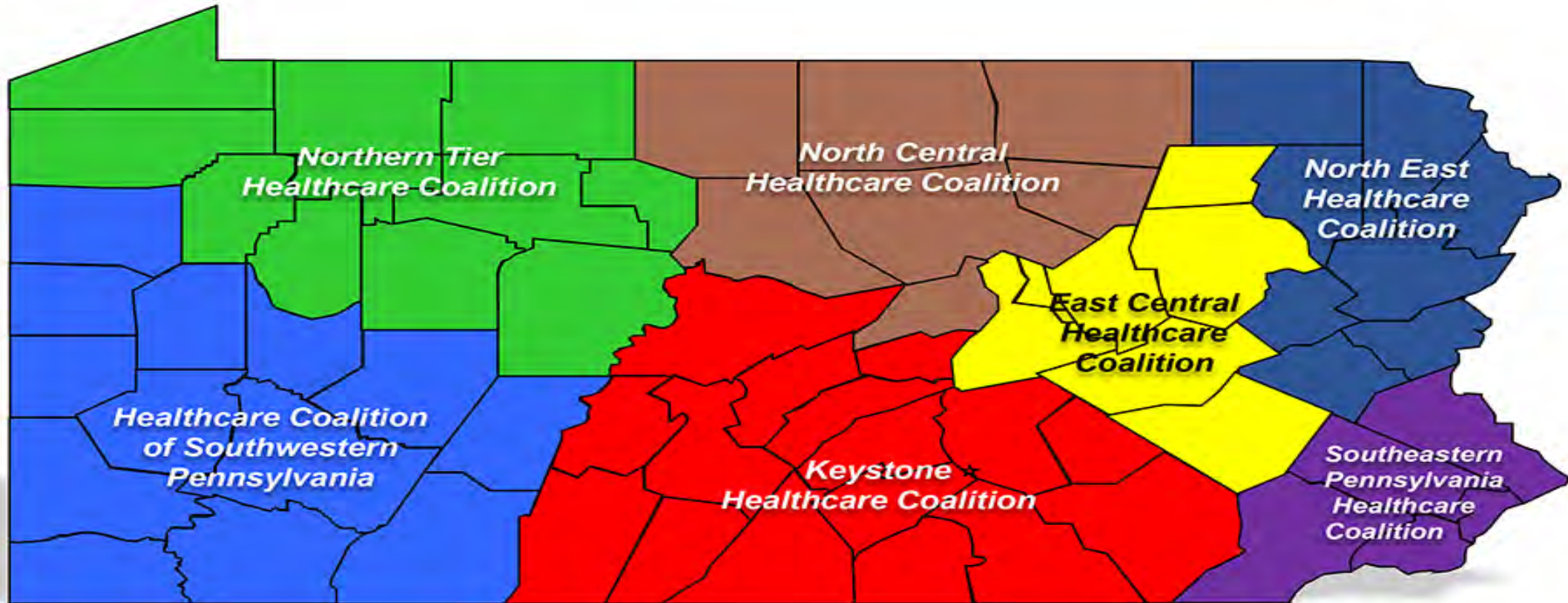
# Healthcare Coalitions (HCCs) in the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania

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## Healthcare Coalitions (HCCs) in the Commonwealth of PA

- 6 regional HCCs in 67 counties
  - Well established among Healthcare Systems, Hospitals and Pre-hospital members.



# Healthcare Coalitions (HCCs) in the Commonwealth of PA

- What is a Health Care Coalition (HCC) in Pennsylvania?
- The Healthcare Preparedness Program falls under the Assistant Secretary for Preparedness and Response and defines HCCs as:
- "A formal collaboration among healthcare organizations and public and private partners that is organized to prepare for, respond to, and recover from an emergency, mass casualty or catastrophic event."



# Healthcare Coalitions (HCCs) in the Commonwealth of PA

## Key Components

- Comprehensive healthcare membership with four core entities
- Regional presence developed within the state to cover larger geographic areas
- Preparedness capability operationalization through plans, exercises, trainings, response and after-action reports.



# Healthcare Coalitions (HCCs) in the Commonwealth of PA

- Membership lacking among Long Term Care Facilities (LTCFs)
  - Recruitment efforts
    - Partnerships with Bureau of Emergency Preparedness (BEPR), Public Health Management Corporation (PHMC) and Long-Term Care Resiliency Infrastructure Supports & Empowerment (LTC-RISE) program and coalition leadership to increase participation.
    - The collaborative approach of this multidisciplinary team can serve to increase participation from long term care facilities with their HCCs leading to improved outcomes.



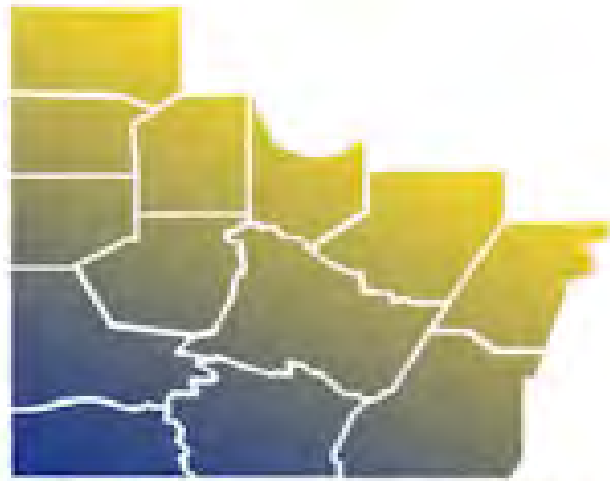
# Pennsylvania Regional Healthcare Coalitions

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# The Healthcare Coalition of Southwestern Pennsylvania (HCSWPA)



**Healthcare Coalition**  
of Southwestern Pennsylvania

**Mission Statement:** The Healthcare Coalition of Southwestern Pennsylvania (HCSWPA) will promote effective emergency preparedness for members of the healthcare sector and associated agencies through coordinated planning, mitigation, response, and recovery activities.

The goals of the Coalition, through collaboration, will be to decrease deaths, injuries, and illnesses resulting from emergencies and to maintain the capabilities of the healthcare sector during disruptive events.

**Regional Readiness Coordinator: Rick Lippert**

**Coalition Chair: Knox Walk**

**Coalition Co-Chair: Michelle Magiske Treadwell**

**Coalition Clinical Advisor: Tim Campbell, M.D.**

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# Keystone Healthcare Coalition (KHCC)



**Mission Statement:** The Keystone Health Care Coalition (KHCC) provides leadership, coordination, collaboration, communication, and subject matter expertise for Health Care organizations and emergency management partners in Central Pennsylvania. This promotes the development and delivery of a comprehensive "All Hazards" emergency management program through Health Care planning, prevention, mitigation, response, and recovery efforts.

**Chairperson:** Kim Stonebraker

**Co-Chair (odd years):** Kristie Shoop

**Co-Chair (even years):** Scott Mickalonis

**Emergency Preparedness Coordinator:** Tom Alsted

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# The Northeast PA Health Care Coalition (NEHCC)



**Mission Statement:** The Northeast PA Health Care Coalition is a collaborative network involving healthcare agencies and public/private partners. Its purpose is to address, plan for, respond to, and recover from emergencies, mass casualties, or catastrophic events. The NEHCC focuses on regional healthcare system emergency preparedness, covering activities such as planning, organizing, equipping, training, exercises, and evaluation.

**Regional Readiness Coordinator: David Stofanak**

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# Southeast Regional Healthcare Coalition (SE HCC)



**Mission Statement:** The Southeast Healthcare Coalition (SEHCC) serves 5 counties in Southeast Pennsylvania as part of the statewide regional healthcare coalition program funded by the federal Hospital Preparedness Program through the Pennsylvania Department of Health. The role of the coalition is to provide coordination of health and medical resources in a disaster.

**Coalition Co-Chair: Matt Butler**

**Coalition Co-Chair: Rafael Henin**

**Regional Manager: Doug Wo**

**Public Health Preparedness Coordinator: Christopher Baldini**

**EMS Preparedness Coordinator: Christopher Confalone**

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# The Central Region Healthcare Coalition (CRHCC)



**Mission Statement:** The Central Region Healthcare Coalition (CRHCC) will promote effective emergency preparedness for members of the health care sector and associated agencies through coordinated Planning, Mitigation, Response and Recovery activities. The goals of the Coalition through collaboration will be to decrease deaths, injuries and illnesses resulting from emergencies and to maintain the capabilities of the health care sector during disruptive events.

**Coalition Co-Chair: Mr. Matthew Exley**

**Coalition Co-Chair: Mr. Anthony Tucci**

**Regional Manager: Jeremy Reese**

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# Northern Tier Healthcare Coalition



**Mission Statement:** The Northern Tier Healthcare Coalition will promote effective emergency preparedness for members of the health care sector and associated agencies through coordinated Planning, Mitigation, Response and Recovery activities. The goals of the Coalition through collaboration will be to decrease deaths, injuries and illnesses resulting from emergencies and to maintain the capabilities of the health care sector during disruptive events.

**Chair:** Keith VanHorn

**Vice Chair:** Rod Shaffer

**Clinical Advisor:** Dr. Joseph Radachy

**Administrative Advisor:** Megan Davis

**Public Health Preparedness Coordinator:** Gary Knox

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# Background/Purpose: COVID-19 and its impact on Long Term Care in Pennsylvania

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The COVID-19 pandemic disproportionately impacted long-term care facilities (LTCFs), leading to significant morbidity and mortality. The devastating impacts led to unprecedented crisis response involving active collaboration of multi-sector stakeholders. It is imperative moving forward:

- LTCF's **NEED** to have strong representation with respective healthcare coalitions (HCCs).
  - By being "at the table" (Long Term Care Subcommittees) they are better situated to understand what resources may be available from HCCs, partner to produce more efficient operations and better outcomes for residents.





# Long Term Care Facilities in Pennsylvania: as defined by Department of Human Services, Office of Long Term Living

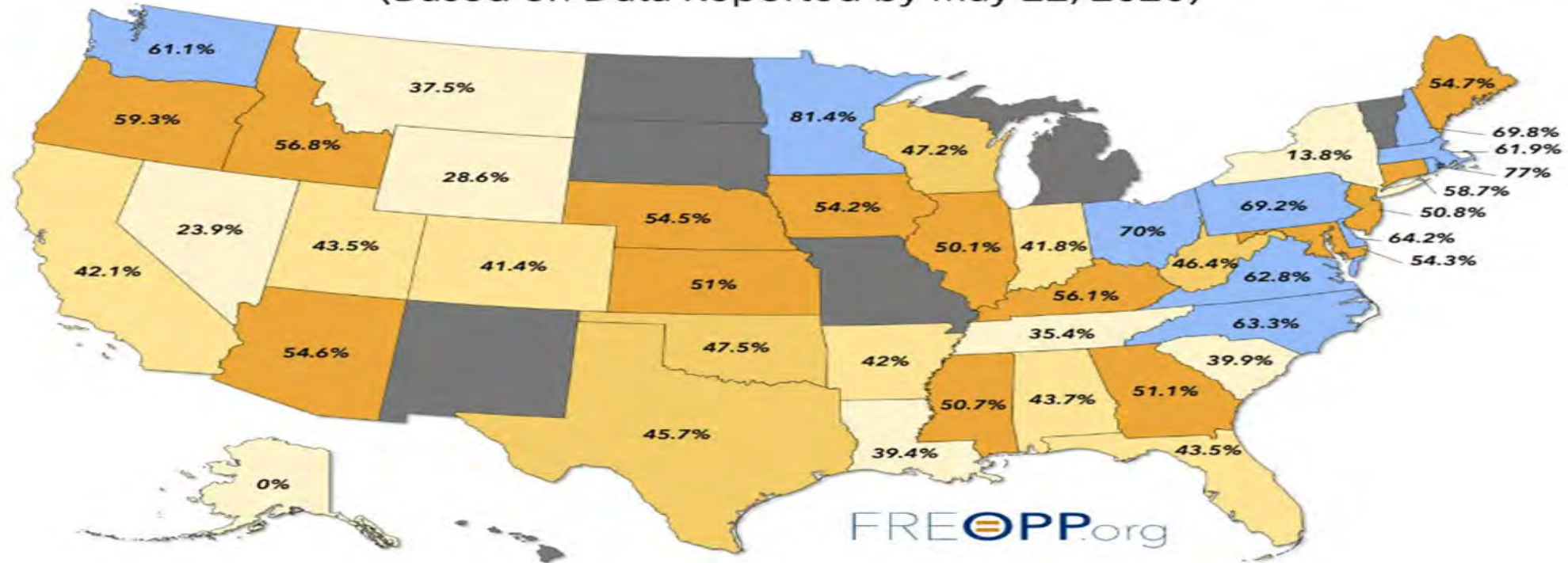
- **LTCFs** - Long-term care facilities provide medical and/or personal support services to patients who are unable to live independently.
- **SNFs** - A skilled nursing facility (SNF) is a type of inpatient facility that provides short or long-term skilled nursing care, and rehabilitation services to patients.
- **PCHs** - Personal care homes (PCH) are residential facilities that provide assistance and supervision with personal care services to persons who require such services.
- **ALRs** – Assisted living residences (ALR) are also residential facilities that provide assistance and supervision with personal care services, but ALR settings are intended to bolster resident choice and the ability to age in place in various ways, such as the provision of on-site supplemental health care services.
- **ICFs** - An intermediate care facility (ICF) is a facility that offers long-term care, such as nursing and supportive care to residents living with mental health conditions or declining health.



# United States Long Term Care and COVID-19 Pandemic

COVID-19 disproportionately impacted long-term care facility residents and staff, leading to disparate mortality and morbidity.

**Share of COVID-19 Deaths Occurring in Nursing Homes & Assisted Living Facilities**  
(Based on Data Reported by May 22, 2020)



Long-term care facilities account for 42% of all U.S. COVID-19 deaths, but only 0.6% of the U.S. population.

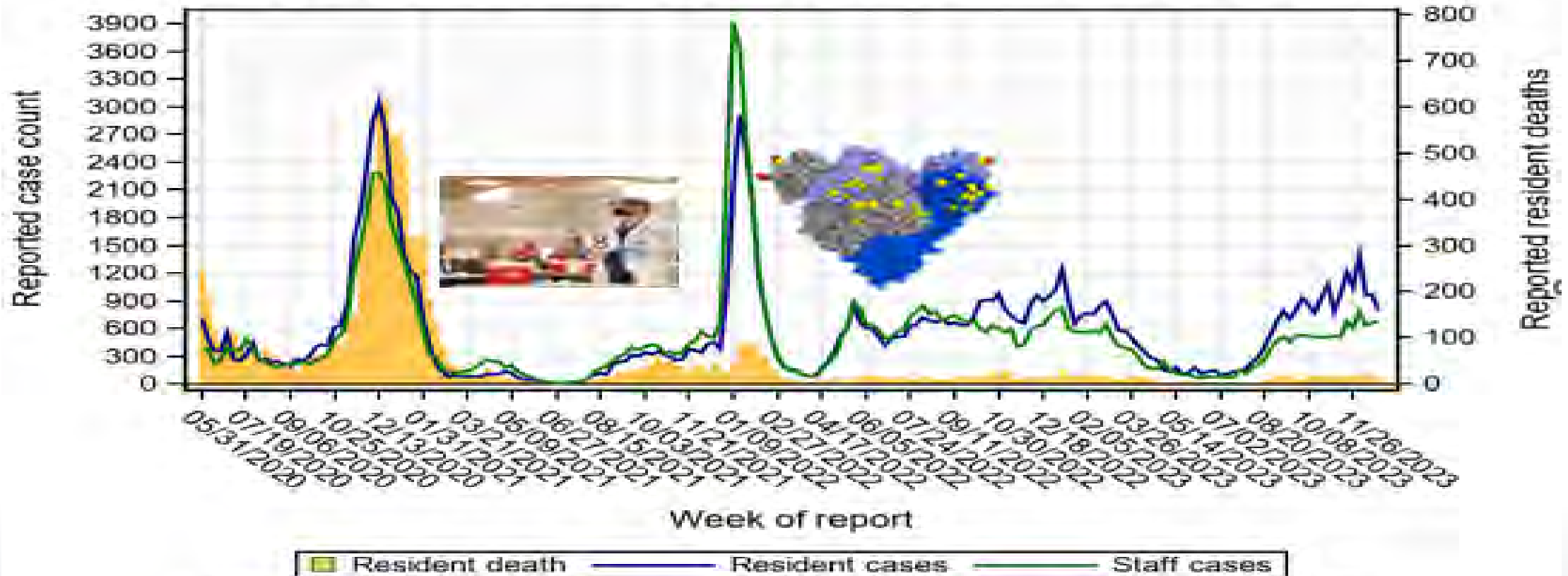
Source: [The Foundation for Research on Equal Opportunity](https://www.froeo.org/)

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# COVID-19 PA SNF and Case Mortality Data

**REPORTED RESIDENT AND STAFF CASES AND RESIDENT DEATHS ASSOCIATED WITH COVID-19 BY PENNSYLVANIA SKILLED NURSING FACILITIES\***



\*Data Source: CMS Nursing Home Data available at: <https://data.cms.gov/covid-19/covid-19-nursing-home-data>  
\*Data represent aggregated weekly facility reports  
\*For better data comparison, please note that different scales are used for the primary and secondary Y-axes



## Methods/Processes:

During the Public Health Emergency (PHE), the Long-Term Care Transformation Office (LTCO) launched the Long-Term Care Resiliency Infrastructure Supports & Empowerment (LTC-RISE) program. This is a collaboration with:

- PA Dept. of Human Services
- PA Emergency Management Agency
- Four healthcare systems

With Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) funding, the healthcare organizations engaged with LTCFs across PA to support outbreak response/recovery.



# Results/Evidence of Impact:

Data source: Pennsylvania's version of the National Electronic Disease Surveillance

By April 11, 2023, when the reporting was no longer generated from PA NEDSS, the following data was collated

Cumulative LTCF resident case count	119,817
Cumulative staff case count	95,421
Cumulative resident and staff deaths	19,145



# COVID-19 Mission and Support - WebEOC

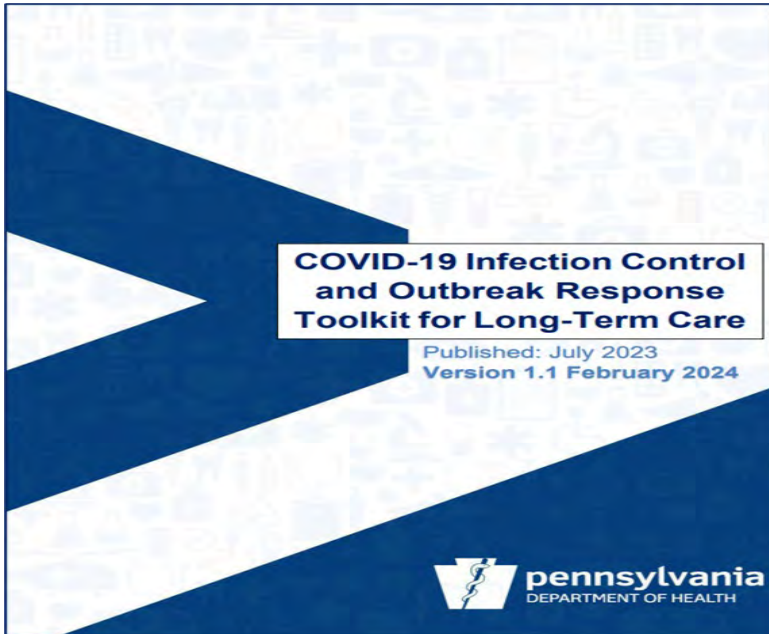
•In collaboration with the following agencies, LTCF crisis support requests were handled by the LTCTO between **March 2020 and May 2023**

- Pennsylvania National Guard
- Bureau of Emergency Preparedness & Response
- Bureau of Epidemiology
- Bureau of Laboratory
- Bureau of Community Health Systems
- Healthcare Coalitions

Crisis support category	Requests received
Staffing	500
Personal protective equipment	850
Testing supplies	2,300



# COVID-19 Toolkit for LTC



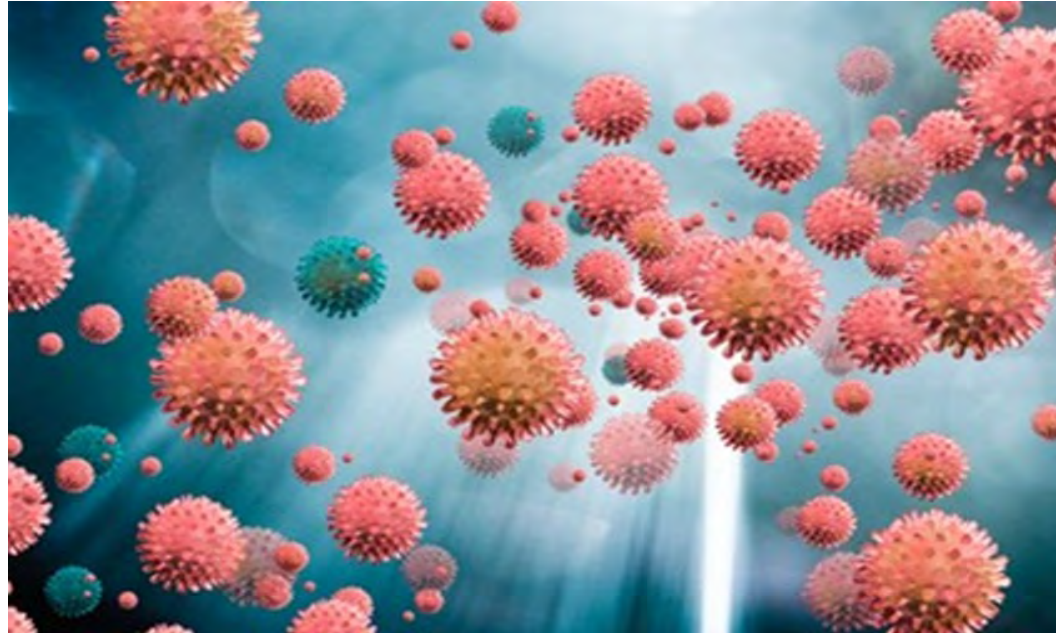
- ❖ Provides guidance, tools, and resources to aid LTC facilities before, during, and after a COVID-19 outbreak
- ❖ Creates facility readiness for other disease events

[COVID-19 LTC Toolkit.pdf \(pa.gov\)](#)

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# Multi-pathogen Outbreak



- COVID-19 outbreak plus an outbreak of at least one additional pathogen (e.g., Flu, RSV)
- Protocol for a standardized collaborative response





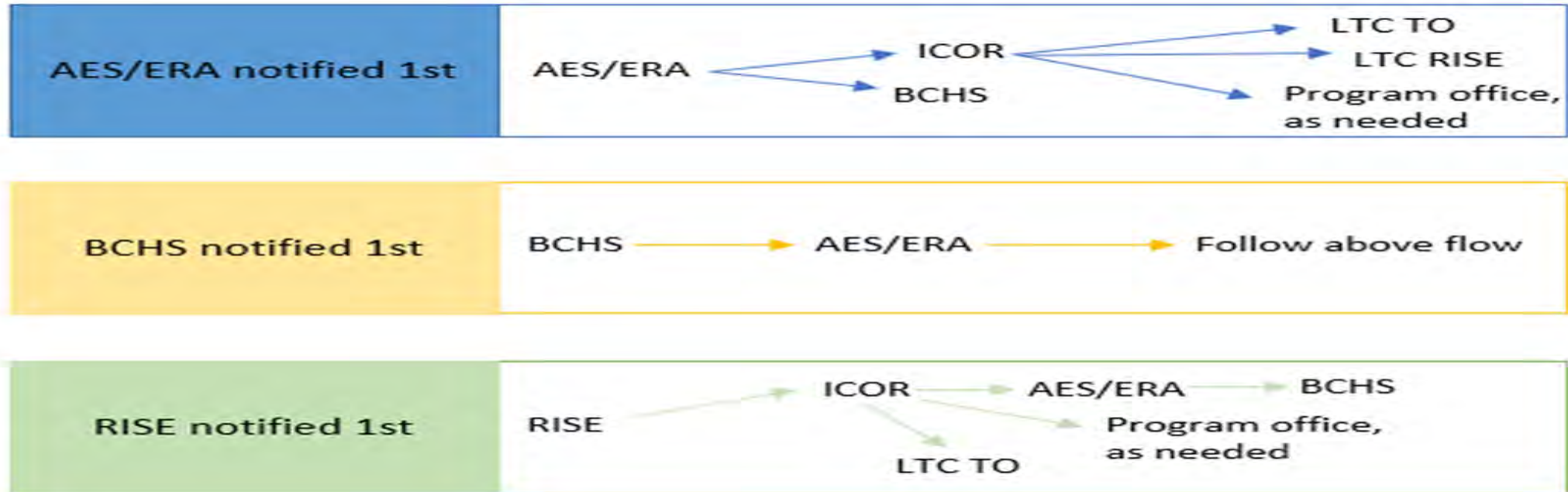
# Multi-pathogen Notification Template

Multi-Pathogen Outbreaks Summary Table

<b>Multi-Pathogen Outbreak Summary</b>	
<b>Facility type</b>	
<b>County</b>	
<b>Name of Facility</b>	
<b>Facility Address</b>	
<b>Facility Phone Number</b>	
<b>Facility POC (Name/Title, Email, Phone if available)</b>	
<b>Involved Pathogens</b>	
<b>Case Counts (specify resident vs staff, and by pathogen if known)</b>	
<b>Describe response measures implemented by facility if known</b>	
<b>Outstanding questions/needs?</b>	



# Multi-pathogen Outbreak Collaboration



## Acronyms

**AES**=Associate Epidemiology Specialist

**BCHS**=Bureau of Community Health Systems

**ERA**=Epidemiology Research Associate

**ICOR**=Infection Control and Outbreak Response

**LTC RISE**=Long-Term Care Resiliency, Infrastructure Supports, and Empowerment

**LTC TO**=Long-Term Care Transformation Office

**Program office**=Various departments/offices with regulatory oversight to LTCFs

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# Outbreak Documentation Collaboration



- Developed guidelines for incident management, information sharing, and documentation in JUVARE for COVID-19 LTC outbreak response



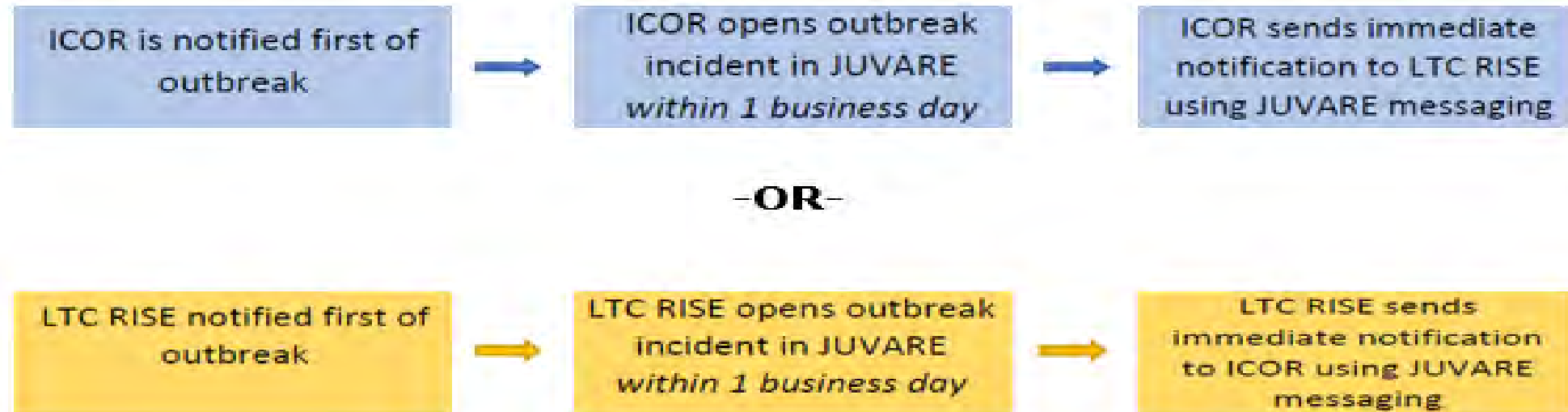
# Juware Outbreak Incident Reporting Development and Training

In Collaboration with Infection Control Outbreak and Response (ICOR) from the Bureau of Emergency Preparedness and Response, the Long Term Care Transformation Office developed Standard Operating Guidelines for Documenting Long-Term Care outbreaks and response.

- Juware training was offered to all Long-Term Care Facilities and RISE partners from the Healthcare Coalitions
- From December 2023 until present time, 949 incidents/responses have been recorded in eICS within Juware



# Juware Outbreak Incident Coordination



## Question for discussion



How did healthcare coalitions assist Long Term Care facilities in your state during the pandemic/public health emergency?



# Discussion: Launch of the Long-Term Care Transformation Office

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- To foster COVID-19 crisis response, improve emergency preparedness, recovery and resiliency, and bridge health disparities, the Pennsylvania Department of Health created the Long-Term Care Task Force.
- In Jan 2023, the Task force became the Long-Term Care Transformation Office (LTCTO), a permanent office at the Pennsylvania Department of Health, working directly with the Office of the Secretary of Health.
- The LTCTO is tasked with providing supporting long term care communities across Pennsylvania by partnering with other state agencies and external stakeholders to implement positive change.





# Discussion: LTCTO Purpose, Vision and Strategies

**Purpose:** Build resiliency through relationships

**Vision:** Build sustainable resiliency in long-term care facilities by promoting relationships that foster:

1. Workforce development and retention
2. Infection control and prevention
3. Emergency preparedness
4. Health equity

**Strategy:**

- **Legislative support:** Provide reports to the Governor's Office and bill-sponsoring legislators on evidence-based LTCFs interventions
- **Enable all-hazard approach:** Empower LTCF leadership through networking opportunities, continuing medical education, preparedness exercises, consultation on outbreak planning, policy that is aligned with CMS regulatory requirements
- **Performance incentives:** reward LTCFs with additional funding that complete QI project and/or meet CMS performance objectives

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# LTCTO Initiatives Timeline

## Type of support

Long-Term Care Resiliency,  
Infrastructure Supports, and  
Empowerment program (LTC-RISE)

LTC- RISE 1.0: Jan 2022-July 2023  
LTC- RISE 2.0: July 2023-July 2024  
LTC- RISE 3.0: August 2024- July 2025

**Response**  
**Resiliency**  
**Equity Centered**

Quality investment Pilot (QIP)

QIP 1.0: March 2023-July 2024  
QIP 2.0: 2024-2025

**Resiliency**  
**Equity Centered**

COVID response:  
Crisis staffing + direct clinical care,  
PPE, testing supplies & support

May 2020- June 2023

**Response**

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# Discussion: LTCTO – Quality Investment Pilot Grant

- QIP is an LTC RISE complementary program that is allocating \$14.2 million directly to facilities to invest in interventions that have proven value to improve resident outcomes (workforce development and retention, infection prevention control, emergency preparedness, and infrastructure enhancement).
- There is a special focus on disadvantaged facilities. Social vulnerability index (SVI) measures, percent Medicaid or Supplemental Security Income (SSI) resident days was used to prioritize investment funding for the most-needy facilities
- Awarded 125 facilities (7% of all facilities in PA) from March 2023 - May 2024



## Discussion: LTCTO – QIP Workforce Tracks

Track 1.A: Identify managers for training in key business enhancing areas

Track 2.A: Identify existing staff for clinical skill certification training

Track 3.A: Identify an Infection Prevention Champion

Track 3.B: Hire a certified full time Infection Preventionist

Track 4.A: Identify an Emergency Preparedness Champion

Track 4.B: Hire a full time Emergency Preparedness Coordinator



# Discussion: LTCTO – QIP Infrastructure Tracks

Track 5.A: Telehealth kiosks

Track 5.B: Improved internet access or Wi-Fi connectivity

Track 5.C: Cellphones or walkie talkies

Track 5.D: Call bell system

Track 5.E: Software

Track 6.A: Purchase HEPA filter

Track 6.B: Upgrade HVAC system

Track 6.C: Improve circulation and airflow opportunities

Track 6.D: Airflow Analysis

Track 7.A: Install handwashing stations

Track 7.B: Install hand sanitizer stations

Track 7.C: Divide non-single occupancy rooms

Track 7.D: Create or improve biocontainment units

Track 7.E: Upgrade visitation spaces



## *Remaining Resilient Post Public Health Emergency (PHE)*

*With the ending of PHE, it became clear that LTCFs were still reeling. Support is needed to help LTCFs remain resilient post-pandemic and partnering in greater numbers with their HCC's can aid them to this end.*

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## Question for discussion



What strategies can be employed to create a more cohesive collaboration among the various healthcare coalitions?



## Question for discussion



What strategies can be employed to create a more cohesive collaboration among the various healthcare coalitions **AND** Long-Term Care Facilities ?





# Conclusion:

The LTCTO continues to maintain these partnerships to build resilience for both staff and residents of all levels of nursing facilities within the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania.

The LTCTO's collaborations with multiple stakeholders highlight the value of partnerships for effective emergency preparedness, response, and resilience building. In today's healthcare landscape, collaboration is imperative to survival and success. This collaborative approach builds the necessary infrastructure/support needed to align the vision and mission of the collective partners and stakeholders. Collaboration is essential for innovative change and transformation. Key strategies to consider in building a stronger relationship between HCC's and LTCFs include:

- Consistently engaging HCC members
- Implementing memoranda of understanding to share resources
- Utilization of spectrum of subject matter experts for development of cohesive multi-jurisdictional response plan across HCCs, county and public health departments.



## HCC benefits

- Access resources and assets
- Know who to call in an emergency
- Gain support for Emergency Preparedness prior to and during a disaster
- Connect with fellow Long Term Care facility peers
- Access trainings and exercises
- Review survey preparedness
- Gain regional emergency situational awareness
- Increase visibility and credibility within the community
- 

## Long Term Care Subcommittee

The Long-Term Care Transformation Office encourages nursing facilities of all levels: SNFs, PCHs, ALFs, ICFs, to join their respective HCC regions Long Term Care subcommittee. This offers the opportunity to meet with your peers in your region to discuss best practices and how to navigate the ever-changing landscape of long-term care.



## HCC benefits

**WHY join the HCC?** To enhance the collective surge capacity and disaster response capabilities among healthcare facilities through information sharing, resource support, response coordination, networking, facilitate Mutual Aid and meet regulatory and accreditation requirements.

## WHO joins the HCC?

Healthcare Facilities and Providers, Local Health Districts, Long Term Care entities, EMS Organizations, Emergency Management, Behavioral Health, Social Services, Home health, Hospice, Dialysis and more.

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# *HOW* to join the HCC?

Please review the HCC map to find your respective region. You can join that region by scanning this QR Code



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