Defending our Patients in Long Term Care

Long Term Care nurses from across the State gathered for a Town Hall and campaign planning meeting on April 22. LTC nurses agreed that we need to act now to defend residents and protect health care worker staff.

1 **PPE Now** – We need proper PPE on par with Acute Care Hospitals. Every nurse and healthcare professional in every Nursing Home needs an N95, gown, and face-shield. Every day. Every night. That’s how we will stop COVID and prevent the unnecessary infection of our residents.

2 **Smart Cohorting Measures Statewide** – Many Nursing Homes are not physically separating COVID+ and PUI residents from the rest of the Home. Every Home in the State of New York needs to create COVID+ and PUI units to properly stop the spread of the virus and properly staff the higher acuity areas.

3 **Regular Testing of Residents and Staff** – The only way we can properly stop the spread of the virus in our Nursing Homes is to track and trace COVID-19. We need rigorous testing of the residents and nurses. All levels of government need to devote testing resources to Long Term Care as a top priority.

4 **Safe Staffing** – The acuity of our residents is skyrocketing during COVID-19. We need safe staffing plans that match Med-Surg level staffing in Acute Care hospitals- 1 nurse to 6 residents.

5 **Transparency** – The Nursing Home Operators, State of New York, and all levels of local government need to give frontline nurses a seat at the table during this crisis. Our residents are part of our community - we deserve to know what is happening and that our loved ones are being treated with dignity.

6 **LTC Hotline for PPE and Patient Care Issues** – With so many private and for-profit operators in New York, we need to establish uniform standards and ensure compliance. Governor Cuomo’s COVID-19 Task Force must set up a regulatory hotline for frontline nurses and healthcare workers to blow the whistle on urgent situations.

Do your part and join the LTC COVID Action Team today!