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Statement from Long Term Care Provider Associations on Confirmed Cases of Coronavirus in Senior Care Settings

SAINT PAUL – (April 4, 2020) – Care Providers of Minnesota and LeadingAge Minnesota today said senior care providers who have positive cases of COVID-19 in their settings need continued support from the State of Minnesota as they provide care and services to those seniors combatting COVID-19.

As senior caregivers, we are realistic about the challenge we face in combatting COVID-19. Seniors and those who live in communal settings are uniquely threatened by this virus, and our caregivers statewide have adopted aggressive procedures to both care for those stricken by the virus and minimize transmission to others.

We do know as the virus continues to spread, it is inevitable and expected that both seniors and caregivers will be impacted. For those seniors who are afflicted with the virus but do not require hospitalization, or who have already successfully received hospitalization, our settings are the most appropriate care location for them, and we welcome COVID-19 positive residents into our communities to recover in isolation.

Providers and their staff are following all recommendations from the Centers for Disease Control & Prevention, the Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services and the Minnesota Department of Health to ensure a clean, safe environment for all who live and work in our settings. The screening protocol and enhanced infection control provided by experienced caregivers, combined with visitation restrictions, will provide senior residents with protection that exceeds what is available in traditional community settings. These aggressive steps are needed to save lives and prevent serious illnesses. We will continue to coordinate with our state and federal regulatory agencies to take the necessary steps to best protect residents and staff from this virus and prevent it from spreading to the broader community.

We share in the call for personal protective equipment for caregivers, more ventilators for those with serious respiratory issues and testing of medicines that could help manage illnesses. We will continue to strongly advocate that those who care for seniors are a priority to benefit from life-saving investments – and we ask Minnesotans to do the same.

We recognize the importance of communication with residents and families during this time and encourage family members to connect with loved ones in senior settings via phones or computer and to reach out to providers to discuss plans for managing COVID-19 in their settings.

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The Long-Term Care Imperative is a legislative collaborative effort between Minnesota's two long-term care provider associations: [Care Providers of Minnesota](#) and [LeadingAge Minnesota](#).