



March 26, 2020

The Honorable Governor Anthony Evers  
Office of Governor  
115 East Capitol  
Madison, WI 53702

Dear Governor Evers,

The Wisconsin Association of Medical Directors (WAMD) anticipates a surge in coronavirus cases statewide over the upcoming weeks. We conclude that it is critical to limit virus spread, especially among our most vulnerable citizens.

WAMD supports, in the strongest terms possible, that nursing facilities which are free of COVID-19 should not be forced to admit COVID-19 positive or suspected COVID-19 patients from local hospitals. This would put existing residents at an unacceptably high risk of infection, with resultant increases in morbidity and mortality.

This position is consistent with recent resolutions, recommendations, and rules published by the American Medical Directors Association, the Los Angeles County Department of Public Health, and the American Health Care Association.

We thank you for giving this serious public health crisis the critical analysis which it deserves.

Sincerely,

*Kristin Severson DO*

Kristin Severson, DO, FACOI, CMD  
President, Wisconsin Association of Medical Directors

*Ronald Schreiber MD*

Ronald Schreiber, MD, CMD  
Legislative Chair / Past President



March 21, 2020

WAMD – The Wisconsin Society for Post-Acute and Long-Term Care Medicine (WAMD) represents Medical Directors, Physician Assistants, Advanced Practice Nurse Practitioners, and other leaders in the long-term and post-acute care continuum. Our organization is in support of AMDA – The Society for Post-Acute and Long-Term Care Medicine’s *Resolution on COVID-19*.

All leaders in Post-Acute and Long-Term Care have worked tirelessly to reduce the possibility of outside transmission of COVID-19 into our resident communities. We immediately worked under the direction of CDC, CMS, and DHS to restrict entrance to our communities to reduce the possibility of this virus’s introduction into the most vulnerable population affected by COVID-19.

It is the position of WAMD to adopt AMDA’s *Resolution of COVID-19, Approved by the AMDA Executive Committee on March 19, 2020*, and ask that our communities not be forced to take COVID-19 positive admissions before they are cleared of infection, either clinically or by nasal swab.

The resolution is as follows:

WHEREAS, SARS-CoV-2 (the COVID-19 pandemic) is known to be particularly lethal to older adults and chronically ill individuals, and

WHEREAS, nursing homes are predominantly filled with this vulnerable population, and

WHEREAS, there is currently an inadequate supply of testing available to understand the present state of infection in nursing homes, and homes should be considered to be COVID-19-naïve until testing demonstrates otherwise, and

WHEREAS, nursing homes are generally unprepared to address the severity and complexity of managing seriously ill COVID-19 patients, and

WHEREAS, nursing homes with existing outbreaks of COVID-19 might be an indicator of insufficient infection control processes; and

WHEREAS, COVID-naïve homes must focus on prevention and containment of COVID-19 when applicable, and

WHEREAS, admitting patients with suspected or documented COVID-19 infection represents a clear and present danger to all of the residents of a nursing home;

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that AMDA – The Society for Post-Acute and Long-Term Care Medicine (AMDA) work to educate state and national government officials/regulators/agencies regarding the risks of COVID-19 infection to our vulnerable patient/resident population; and,

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that AMDA advocate that COVID-19-naïve nursing homes should not be forced by local hospitals or officials to accept new admissions who demonstrate clinical

evidence or a positive test for active COVID-19, unless they are considered non-infectious based on current CDC guidelines; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that AMDA urge local/state/federal governments to develop and deploy alternative care settings (e.g., hotels, cruise ships, conference centers, etc.) and to partner with AMDA and with other stakeholder experts to provide the appropriate care for those who have suffered from COVID-19 infection and ensure that post-acute and long-term care patients are not placed at undue risk of the infection; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that AMDA urge all relevant representatives of the healthcare system to identify and/or create specialized centers of excellence, to deliver care to patients who have been treated for COVID-19 in the acute hospital setting, or, who require skilled nursing care instead of acute hospital care.

Sincerely,

Kristin Severson DO, CMD, FACOI

President

WAMD – The Wisconsin Society for Post-Acute and Long-Term Care Medicine

Attachment: AMDA's *Resolution of COVID-19*



## Resolution on COVID-19

**WHEREAS, SARS-CoV-2 (the COVID-19 pandemic) is known to be particularly lethal to older adults and chronically ill individuals, and**

**WHEREAS, nursing homes are predominantly filled with this vulnerable population, and**

**WHEREAS, there is currently an inadequate supply of testing available to understand the present state of infection in nursing homes, and homes should be considered to be COVID-19-naïve until testing demonstrates otherwise, and**

**WHEREAS, nursing homes are generally unprepared to address the severity and complexity of managing seriously ill COVID-19 patients, and**

**WHEREAS, nursing homes with existing outbreaks of COVID-19 might be an indicator of insufficient infection control processes; and**

**WHEREAS, COVID-naïve homes must focus on prevention and containment of COVID-19 when applicable, and**

**WHEREAS, admitting patients with suspected or documented COVID-19 infection represents a clear and present danger to all of the residents of a nursing home;**

**THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that AMDA – The Society for Post-Acute and Long-Term Care Medicine (AMDA) work to educate state and national government officials/regulators/agencies regarding the risks of COVID-19 infection to our vulnerable patient/resident population; and,**

**BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that AMDA advocate that COVID-19-naïve nursing homes should not be forced by local hospitals or officials to accept new admissions who demonstrate clinical evidence or a positive test for active COVID-19, unless they are considered non-infectious based on current CDC guidelines; and**

**BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that AMDA urge local/state/federal governments to develop and deploy alternative care settings (e.g., hotels, cruise ships, conference centers, etc.) and to partner with AMDA and with other stakeholder experts to provide the appropriate care for those who have suffered from COVID-19 infection and ensure that post-acute and long-term care patients are not placed at undue risk of the infection; and**

**BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that AMDA urge all relevant representatives of the healthcare system to identify and/or create specialized centers of excellence, to deliver care to patients who have been treated for COVID-19 in the acute hospital setting, or, who require skilled nursing care instead of acute hospital care.**

*Approved by the AMDA Executive Committee March 19, 2020*