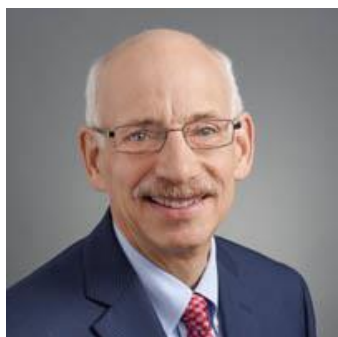


# Evaluation of a State-wide Effort to Improve COVID-19 Infection Control in Massachusetts Nursing Homes



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*“It is important to evaluate the state-wide effort to reduce COVID-19 infections in MA nursing homes to determine what worked and in whom, so it can serve as a model for other states tackling this disease.”*

**RATIONALE:** In April 2020, Massachusetts’ (MA) nursing homes (NH) became a national hotspot for COVID-19 infections with over 10,000 confirmed cases. More than half of the state’s COVID-19 deaths occurred among residents and staff of these facilities, particularly residents with Alzheimer’s disease and related dementias (ADRD). MA made \$130 million of funding available for 2 months to NHs to improve infection control contingent on compliance with a new set of care criteria.

**OBJECTIVE:** Evaluate strategies to minimize spread of COVID-19 among older adults and their care providers within NHs, including mandatory testing of all residents and staff, a 28-point infection control check-list, and adherence to personal protective equipment (PPE) and resident cohorting requirements.

**SETTING:** NH facilities across Massachusetts compared to those in Connecticut, Rhode Island, New Hampshire, and Vermont.

**POPULATION:** All NH residents, including older adults with ADRD and/or Black race who are at greatest risk of morbidity and mortality from COVID-19.

**DESIGN:** Descriptive study using merged data from 4 MA NH audits (inspections); data sent by all MA NHs to the Massachusetts Center for Health Information Analysis (CHIA) regarding COVID infection rates, mortality, staffing, PPE, and hospitalizations; CHIA data on COVID-19 test results; and MDS data provided by Brown University's Gerontology Center. Compare rates of COVID-19 positive residents between NHs in Mass and other New England state settings stratified by the cumulative prevalence of SARS-CoV-2 in the area in which each facility is located, and by the facility distributions of ADRD diagnoses or Black race.

**OUTCOMES:** Primary outcomes will include changes in the weekly rates of new COVID-19 cases among facility residents and staff, and resident mortality rates associated with the infection over the 2-month intervention period.

**IMPACT:** The information garnered from this robust state-wide effort to manage COVID-19 in MA NHs could serve as a model for other states and health care systems. We will disseminate the MA experience through various modalities and national organizations, and ultimately leverage what is learned to help protect the millions of American nursing home residents, including those most vulnerable with ADRD and Black race.