



Oregon

Kate Brown, Governor

Department of Human Services

Office of the Director

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June 8, 2020

The Honorable Senator Sara Gelser, Chair
The Honorable Senator Dallas Heard, Vice-Chair
Senate Committee on Human Services
900 Court Street NE
Salem, OR 97301-4048



RE: Answering questions about nursing facility self-reported data in new CMS database

Below is the response from the Aging and People with Disability Interim Director Mike McCormick to a question raised regarding a **Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services (CMS)** report stating there were eight deaths in a nursing facility asked during the June 3, 2020 meeting of the Senate Interim Committee on Human Services.

CMS requires nursing facilities to self-report COVID-19 cases and deaths directly to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC). CMS, in turn, has made this data publicly available and news organizations are reporting on the results. More information about this new database is available at [this link](#).

A CMS summary of nursing facilities' self-reported data was available earlier this week. Unfortunately, the summary included a nursing facility data entry error. As a result, the summary inaccurately reflected nursing facility staff deaths from COVID-19 in Oregon. The source of the error was not evident until the full database became available.

The Oregonian had written about the staff death report on June 1. It has since followed up, explaining that an Oregon nursing facility had reported information in error and the CMS database has since been corrected. You may find the story at [this link](#).

The CMS database is a wonderful new tool and provides greater insights into how the pandemic is impacting residents and staff at nursing facilities nationwide. Given the data is self-reported, there is always an opportunity for human error in data entry. We also know that some nursing facilities nationwide are interpreting the information requested differently. These kinks will get worked out over time.

Additional resources available on COVID-19 cases at Oregon's long-term facilities include:

- Oregon Health Authority's Weekly report which includes case information at facilities with three or more cases and one or more deaths. You may find the report on [this page](#) under the "additional data and projections" tab.
- The DHS Office of Aging and People with Disabilities (APD) provides a list of facilities with current or suspected cases of COVID-19 near the bottom of the page at [this link](#). The reports are updated every Tuesday and Friday.

"Assisting People to Become Independent, Healthy and Safe"

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If you have questions about what APD is doing to prevent the spread of the virus in long-term care facilities, including nursing facilities, we are happy to help.

Sincerely,

Mike McCormick

Interim Director

Office of Aging and People with Disabilities

Oregon Department of Human Services

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