



THE CLAUDE PEPPER CENTER

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How to fix the nursing home crisis, now and after the pandemic *Larry Polivka, Executive Director, Claude Pepper Center*

The COVID-19 pandemic has caused tens of thousands of deaths and more than three million infections, with predictions of many more to come. Nursing home residents have been among the most affected by the pandemic. Most of these residents are fragile, with medical co-morbidities and restricted mobility.

These conditions, and the fact that residents live in close proximity to each other, make them highly vulnerable to a pandemic. The situation is compounded by lack of preparation, including insufficient personal protective equipment (PPE) for caregivers and testing to identify those infected in a timely fashion.

To understand fully how the United States has ended up in this tragic situation, we need to take a broader view of long-term care. We are failing to provide enough community-based services, as well as quality nursing home care, to a rapidly growing population of older Americans who have serious but unmet needs.

Community-based in-home programs include a wide range of services, from home health care and personal care support to homemaker assistance. The expansion, however, of these services for persons dependent on public assistance has been slow and uneven. Most states spend more than 50 percent of their Medicaid funds, the biggest source of long-term care funding, on nursing home care rather than community-based services.

Furthermore, the number and accessibility of services is often inadequate, resulting in growing waitlists. In Florida, the waitlist for community-based services exceeds 75,000, grows annually and will become longer with the unprecedented growth of the older population over the next 20 years if services aren't expanded. The United States spends less of its GDP (1 percent) on long-term care than virtually every other wealthy country.

To read the full article, published July 17th in the Tampa Bay Times, please visit <https://bit.ly/2OR3rJk>

COVID-19 Section Updates

We have added numerous sections to the COVID-19 portion of our website. These new sections focus on Florida policy, the cultural impact of COVID-19, public health policy, global dimensions, and COVID-19's impact on vulnerable populations. Within each section you can find curated articles and commentaries that go into greater detail about the various effects COVID-19 is having on our nation and the world. We will be posting information daily and modifying previous posts as more information becomes available.

<https://fla.st/3cwB0Ks>

(Updated July 1, 2020) The following stores offer additional hours reserved for our elder population in addition to their regular store hours.

ELDER POPULATION

Shopping Hours



Tuesdays,
One Hour Before Open



Tues & Wed,
First Hour Open



Daily,
First Hour Open



Tues & Thurs
Open - 9am



Mon - Fri
9am - 10am



Mon - Fri,
7am-8am



Daily,
7am - 8am



Daily,
6am - 7:30am



The brands listed above have enacted nation-wide policies. Many other brands have policies in place to help but their times are determined by your local store which you can find by contacting them.