



THE CLAUDE PEPPER CENTER

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As Florida reopens, the deaths quietly keep piling up in nursing homes – Miami Herald
<https://hrlid.us/3fQzuEO>

Though the cumulative overall number of deaths attributed to COVID-19, the illness caused by exposure to the coronavirus, doubled in May, coronavirus deaths at nursing homes and assisted living facilities tripled.

Florida accounts for its share and then some, said Larry Polivka, executive director of the Florida State University-based Claude Pepper Center.

“I don’t know of any place else in the country that matches this,” said Polivka, who has studied aging and long-term care issues for decades.

“This should raise red flags about our need to know more about what is going on in these nursing homes that are producing these highest-in-the-nation percentages of fatalities.”

COVID-19’s Impact on Long-Term Care

The COVID-19 pandemic has created enormous pressure on the entire health care system, but possibly the most tragic impact has been on the long-term care system for both younger and older people in residential care programs. The impact is especially felt in nursing homes, where over 85% of the residents are among the most vulnerable part of the population: older people. After only a couple months, several thousand nursing home residents have succumbed to the virus across the country. Unfortunately, this is likely an under-count, as information on infection and mortality rates is suspect in the absence of standardized reporting requirements at the national level and insufficient capacity to test residents for infection in many facilities.

The Claude Pepper Center is keeping an active list of commentaries, articles, and other information about COVID-19’s impact on Long-Term Care.
<https://fla.st/3hTr4hK>

Climate Change and Aging

Covid-19 has shown few signs of abating with the warmer weather and has in fact spiked in several states. Now, many health and city planners predict the crisis could get much worse as the U.S. faces what is expected to be one of the hottest summers on record. For more information, as well as tips on how to keep yourself safe this summer, please visit <https://fla.st/3aiWKYI>

KNOW THE SIGNS OF HEAT-RELATED ILLNESS AND HOW TO RESPOND:

HEAT CRAMPS

Signs: Muscle pains or spasms in the stomach, arms, or legs.

Action: Go to a cooler location. Remove excess clothing. Take sips of cool sports drinks with salt and sugar. Get medical help if cramps last more than an hour.

HEAT EXHAUSTION

Signs: Heavy sweating, paleness, muscle cramps, tiredness, weakness, dizziness, headache, nausea or vomiting, or fainting

Action: Go to an air-conditioned place and lie down. Loosen or remove clothing. Take a cool bath. Take sips of cool sports drinks with salt and sugar. Get medical help if symptoms get worse or last more than an hour.

HEAT STROKE

Signs: Extremely high body temperature (above 103 degrees) taken orally; red, hot, and dry skin with no sweat; rapid, strong pulse; dizziness; confusion; or

Action: Call 911 or get the person to a hospital immediately. Cool down with whatever methods are available until medical help arrives.