

# The Future of LTC Post COVID-19

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Chair, Public Policy Committee

California Association of Long Term Care Medicine



# Disclosures

- Board of Directors, Wish of a Lifetime-from AARP
- Board of Directors, California Association of Long Term Care Medicine (CALTCM)
- Board of Directors, Health in Aging Foundation
- Board of Directors, Sanolla
- Editorial Board, The Merck Manual

I also have a strong bias against ageism, which I will never remain quiet about!

March 1

**Mike Wasserman** @wassdoc

PLEASE RT! The virus has already been found in a resident and staff in a WA NH. AMDA Update on Covid-19 | AMDA

<https://paltc.org/COVID-19>

# March 10<sup>th</sup> NBC NEWS



Coronavirus is nursing homes' 'greatest threat' in years. Here's what they must do.

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CORONAVIRUS

## Coronavirus is nursing homes' 'greatest threat' in years. Here's what they must do.

"This is the greatest threat to nursing home residents that we have seen in many years, if not ever," one expert said.



# CALTCM's Long Term Care Quadruple Aim For COVID-19 Response

- Abundant PPE
  - Pandemic supply chain challenges
- Readily Available Testing
  - Need to detect asymptomatic and presymptomatic
- Stellar Infection Control
  - Need for Full-time Infection Preventionist
- Facility working under Emergency Preparedness/Pandemic Plan
  - Proxy for excellent leadership

# 5<sup>th</sup> Element: COVID-19 Vaccine

- Evidence in older adults very positive
  - Albeit no clinical trials in nursing home residents
  - Would have been an excellent opportunity to perform clinical trials in nursing homes and assisted living facilities
- Opportunity to reduce disease in staff
- Potential to reduce spread amongst staff
- Potential to reduce transmission to residents



## Coronavirus Commission on Safety and Quality in Nursing Homes

**Commission Final Report**  
September 2020

# Theme 1: Testing & Screening

- Testing is still a critical issue, especially in regards to variants
  - Aggressive sequencing to monitor variants
- Rapid Turnaround Pcr testing
  - <24 hours
  - Point of care
- Antigen testing
  - Home testing
  - Frequent testing
  - Need to reduce “false positives”



## Theme 2: Equipment and PPE

- Every nursing home in the country **MUST** have an abundant supply of PPE
  - N95s are essential
  - Should be no risk of running out
- Need to address supply chain issues
- Need to assure that Federal financial support is effectively put towards PPE and testing equipment

# Theme 3: Cohorting

- Balance resident and staff safety with infection prevention and control
  - Waiving resident transfer and discharge requirements had and have unintended consequences
- Evidence and science should drive cohorting guidance

## Theme 4: Visitation

- Allowing visits to and from friends and family
  - Vital resident right!
- Vaccinations are game changers
- Person centered
  - Risk:Benefit ration MUST be fully addressed

## Theme 5: Communications

- Increase specificity and expand guidance on communications
- How CDC and CMS communicate with each other and with facilities matters
- Expand on technological approaches
- Facilitate QIN-QIO efforts

# Theme 6: Workforce Ecosystem

- 24/7 RN Staffing in all nursing homes
- 0.75 RN hprd
- One FTE Infection Preventionist (IP)/100 beds
  - Minimum of one Full-time IP for >40 bed facility

# Theme 7: Workforce Systems

- Catalyze interest in CNAs
- Professionalize IPs
- Require certified medical directors
  - Include a public facing medical director list
- Overhaul workforce ecosystem
- Convene LTC workforce commission

# Theme 8: Technical Assistance & Quality Improvement

- Increase availability of onsite collaborative, data-driven support
- Eliminate need for QIN-QIOs to “recruit” nursing homes
- Reduce QIN-QIO administrative burden
- Bolster “incentives” for nursing homes to work with QIN-QIOs

# Theme 9: Facilities

- Facility design enhancement
  - Ventilation
  - Space
  - Capital incentives
  - Green House
- Reevaluate COVID-19 Positive Facility concept



# Theme 10: Nursing Home Data

- Retrospective COVID-19 Data
  - Starting in February, 2020
  - Deaths related to COVID-19 (residents and staff)
    - Regardless of location of death
    - COVID-19 positive
    - Presumed COVID-19 deaths
  - Adverse events secondary to social isolation
    - Weight Loss
    - Pressure Ulcers
    - Behavioral symptoms

# Theme 10: Nursing Home Data (cont.)

- Retrospective COVID-19 Data
  - Testing data (residents and staff)
    - Pcr
    - Turnaround time
    - Screening
    - Outbreak
  - Testing data (residents and staff)
    - Antigen
    - Screening
    - Outbreak

# Theme 10: Nursing Home Data (cont.)

- Prospective Data
  - Genetic sequencing
    - Variants
  - Pcr and antigen testing (staff and residents)
    - Screening
    - Outbreak
  - Community prevalence
  - Deaths
  - Adverse events secondary to social isolation
    - Weight Loss
    - Pressure Ulcers
    - Behavioral symptoms

# Leadership & Management Training

- Nursing Home Administrator
- Director of Nursing
- Medical Director
- Director of Staff Development
- Concept of Leadership Team!
- Recognizes complexity of nursing homes

# California Association of Long Term Care Medicine

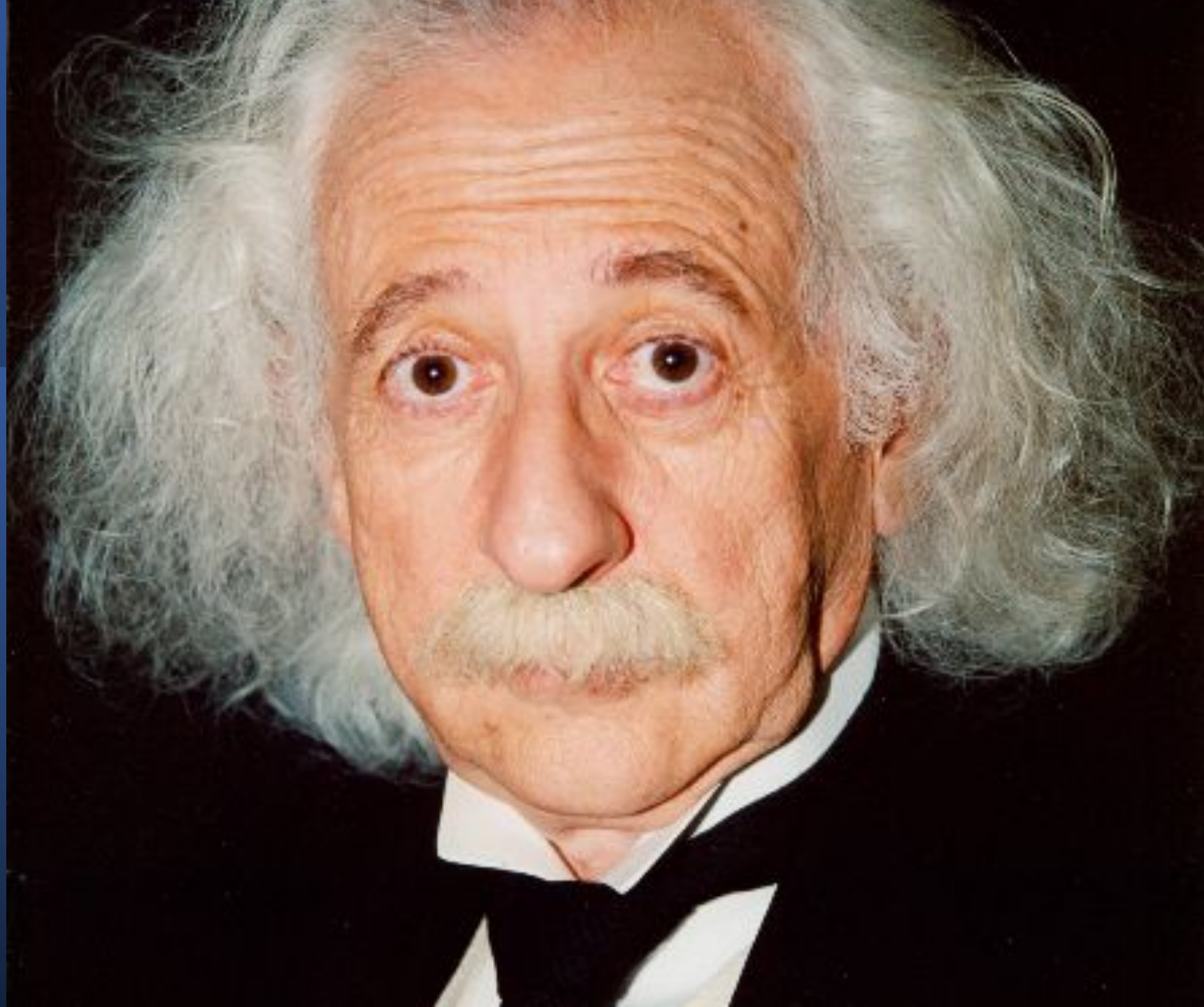
@CALTCM

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@Wassdoc

Check the CALTCM Website ([CALTCM.org](https://www.caltcmm.org)) and e-newsletter, the CALTCM Wave, for updates.

Questions  
?????



# QUESTION & ANSWER

Beverly Tiller, Dr. Mike Wasserman



Ascension

# LUNCH BREAK

WE WILL RECONVENE AT 12:25pm

IF YOU LEAVE THE ZOOM MEETING, BE SURE TO SAVE THE ZOOM LINK (OR MEETING ID) TO LOG BACK ON



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