



March 30, 2020

Statement on Dallas County Judge Clay Jenkins' [Order regarding Long Term Care Facilities](#)  
By LeadingAge Texas

LeadingAge Texas is the voice of not-for-profit senior living providers in Texas. While we appreciate Dallas County Judge Clay Jenkins concern for keeping older adults safe as coronavirus continues to spread in Texas, we caution families against removing a loved one from their nursing home or long-term care facility. Senior living communities have strong safety measures in place to keep residents safe including: stringent visitor restrictions, employee screening measures, infection control, and social distancing.

Our member communities are focused on ensuring the safety and well-being of their residents and their employees. Moving a loved one can be a significant life-changing event and can have negative health consequences for an elderly person. Families should understand that for some residents, the trauma of relocating can reduce access to care and services, thereby placing the resident at a greater health risk.

Protecting senior living residents from coronavirus takes robust coordination and communication between the community, local and state health agencies, and elected officials. Texas must ensure these providers are equipped with the necessary personal protective equipment to care for their residents and themselves. Residents and staff should receive priority COVID-19 testing. State and local agencies should be transparent in the number of confirmed COVID-19 cases. Armed with this information, providers can best respond to the needs of their residents, including monitoring staff that may work in multiple healthcare settings.

A pandemic is an unprecedented event and requires government officials and our healthcare providers to work together in addressing the new challenges we face daily. Texas senior living communities have proven to be up to the task of providing safe environments for our aging population. As the worst cases of coronavirus continues to target older adults, it is our hope that those impacted will receive high-quality care that prevents seniors from contracting the virus or if necessary, assists them in recovering from the virus. Our member communities across the state are saddened by every reported loss of life and we remain vigilant in our mission to protect the residents we serve.

***Inspire. Serve. Advocate.***

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