

COMMITTEE ASSIGNMENTS

VICE CHAIR

- Public Safety and Health Committee

MEMBER

- Community & Economic Development Committee
- Licenses Committee
- National League of Cities Community and Economic Development Federal Advocacy Committee
- National League of Cities Energy, Environment and Natural Resources Committee
- Milwaukee Continuum of Care
- City-County Carjacking and Reckless Driving Task Force



CHANTIA LEWIS
ALDERWOMAN, 9TH DISTRICT

Full COVID-19 testing is welcome and needed for care facility residents and workers

Statement of Alderwoman Chantia Lewis May 11, 2020

Something that may have been lost in the torrent of coronavirus (COVID-19) news updates last week was some very good news: The announcement by Governor Evers that every resident and every worker at all 373 nursing homes in Wisconsin will be tested for COVID-19.

The Governor said free testing and diagnostics at all of Wisconsin's nursing homes includes the goal of testing more than 10,000 residents and staff per week during the month of May. To accomplish the testing, the effort will include a combination of public and private partners to call nursing home facilities to coordinate supplies, logistics and test results.

Nursing homes – including facilities located across the city (and on the far northwest side in the 9th District), across Wisconsin and nationally -- have been hotspots for outbreaks of deadly COVID-19. According to news reports, as of last Wednesday there were 93 public health investigations in long-term care facilities in Wisconsin, with 25 facilities having more than five confirmed cases. Testing (along with contact tracing) is critical to helping to slow and prevent the spread of COVID-19 in our long term care facilities, and I applaud Governor Evers and the Department of Health Services for making sure everyone gets tested in these facilities, and for efforts to significantly increase the state's ability to conduct contact tracing.

Testing, contact tracing and continued social distancing will help us get through this crisis, **TOGETHER.**

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