



1360 Mission St., Suite 400  
San Francisco, CA 94103  
415-546-1333  
[www.sdaction.org](http://www.sdaction.org)

April 20, 2020

Dear Mayor Breed:

We are in a challenging moment, in which our actions demonstrate our values and our regard for human life. Senior & Disability Action, in conjunction with many other organizations focused on seniors and people with disabilities, is alarmed by the rapid spread of coronavirus and COVID-19, and the ensuing chaos and uncertainty. It is extremely upsetting to find the recent news report (S.F. Chronicle, 4/19/20) that a skilled nursing facility in San Francisco was found to have 36 patients and 26 staff members who tested positive. We call for decisive steps that not only react to the spread, but that proactively address specific needs. We emphatically call upon you and officials at every level to immediately take these necessary actions:

- Immediately test ALL staff and residents of any facility with any confirmed or suspected case of COVID-19. Facilities should include Laguna Honda Hospital, other skilled nursing facilities, assisted living facilities, board and care homes, and other long-term care facilities, as well as homeless shelters and jails.
- Offer testing *on demand* of staff and residents of any congregate setting, including SROs.
- Regularly post a list of all congregate facilities that details the number of cases and deaths of staff and residents.
- If a family member or friend can house a resident of a facility during the crisis, ensure that they receive all supports needed, including 24-hour care if necessary, and ensure that they can return to the facility afterwards if needed.
- Provide personal protective equipment (PPE) for staff of all facilities.
- When a resident of a congregate facility tests positive for COVID-19, recognize that they are at grave risk of death and move them to a hospital for isolation and treatment.

In our beautiful San Francisco, committed to being age and disability-friendly, seniors and people with disabilities, who have the highest risk of dying from COVID-19, must receive equitable and equal access to care and treatment across all demographic groups.

Neglecting people in congregate settings in this crisis is a form of care rationing, and a sign of the ableism and ageism that are so pervasive in our society. We look forward to working with you to protect all San Francisco residents.

Sincerely,

Ligia Montano  
Health Care Organizing Director

Jessica Lehman  
Executive Director

cc: Dr. Grant Colfax, Department of Public Health  
Shireen McSpadden, Disability and Aging Services  
Cindy Kauffman, Disability and Aging Services  
Dr. Anna Chodos, UCSF  
Trent Rohrer, Human Services Agency