# JUST THE FACTS: WHAT CAUSED COVID-19 OUTBREAK IN NURSING HOMES

Location of a nursing home was the determining factor in outbreaks according to independent analysis by leading academic and health care experts; asymptomatic spread and lack of testing also a key factor.

## KEY FINDINGS

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<td><strong>LOCATION OF FACILITY DETERMINED OUTBREAKS</strong></td>
<td>“According to preliminary research presented, larger facilities located in urban areas with large populations, particularly in counties with a higher prevalence of COVID-19 cases, were more likely to have reported cases.”&lt;sup&gt;1&lt;/sup&gt;</td>
<td>Mor: “If you’re in an environment where there are a lot of people in the community who have COVID, the patients in the building are more likely to have COVID.”&lt;sup&gt;1&lt;/sup&gt;</td>
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<td><strong>ASYMPTOMATIC SPREAD AND LACK OF TESTING WAS A KEY FACTOR</strong></td>
<td>Grawbowski: “It is spreading via asymptomatic and pre-symptomatic cases...We're not going to get a handle on COVID-19 until we get a systematic testing and surveillance system.”&lt;sup&gt;1&lt;/sup&gt;</td>
<td>“COVID-19’s ability to hide in plain sight will continue to crush expectations of halting its spread unless more and quicker testing at nursing homes sweeps the country, said a top U.S. researcher (Mor).”&lt;sup&gt;3&lt;/sup&gt;</td>
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<td><strong>QUALITY RATING OF FACILITY WAS NOT A FACTOR IN OUTbreaks</strong></td>
<td>“COVID-19 cases in nursing homes are related to facility location and size and not traditional quality metrics such as star rating and prior infection control citations.”&lt;sup&gt;2&lt;/sup&gt;</td>
<td>“He (Mor) added that counter to some assertions, regression analyses show that infection rates are unrelated to quality rankings…”&lt;sup&gt;3&lt;/sup&gt;</td>
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<td><strong>NO SIGNIFICANT DIFFERENCE BETWEEN FOR- OR NOT-FOR- PROFITS IN OUTBREAKS</strong></td>
<td>“Characteristics that were not associated with a facility having a COVID case included...whether it was for-profit, part of a chain...These factors had no correlation with whether the facility had cases of COVID-19.”&lt;sup&gt;1&lt;/sup&gt;</td>
<td>“We found no significant differences in the probability of COVID-19 cases by profit status, with for-profit nursing homes and not-for-profit nursing homes being equally likely to have cases.”&lt;sup&gt;4&lt;/sup&gt;</td>
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<sup>1</sup> Provider Magazine, 5/11/20

<sup>2</sup> "Characteristics of U.S. Nursing Homes with COVID-19 Cases", 6/2/2020

<sup>3</sup> McKnight’s Long Term Care News, 5/11/20

<sup>4</sup> Testimony to United States Senate Special Committee on Aging, 5/21/20