Residential Health Care Facilities & COVID-19

Public Hearing • August 3, 2020

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Commissioner of Health, New York State

Background

- **This has been a challenge nationwide since February 2020.**

- **Congregate settings like the 613 nursing homes in NYS are particularly vulnerable to infectious diseases like COVID-19.**

- **The first known COVID-positive nursing home resident was identified in Kirkland, Washington.**

Context: Virus Was Here Before Travel Ban

- Federal travel ban from China: **February 2nd**

- **3 million people** flew from Europe to New York City

- Federal travel ban from Europe: **March 13th**

- CDC: **Community spread was already happening** prior to Europe travel ban.

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"The one thing that I wanted to stress though, is that there are differences in what we're experiencing today than what we all experienced in March, and April, and May. And one of the things I want us to focus on is not the cases per se, but the consequences, the impact of those cases. It wasn't long ago, probably within two months ago, it's hard to believe, I don't think many people realized that 27% of all deaths that occurred in the United States actually died of a pneumonia. That was a pneumonia, could have been influenza, could have been COVID. 27%, one in four of all the deaths in the United States just two months ago was caused by pneumonia. I'm happy to say today, the deaths due to pneumonia and this nation is back to baseline. It's about 7%. That's a big difference. A lot of those pneumonias that were dying were actually COVID infected individuals that were the elderly, nursing homes, and individuals with comorbidities."
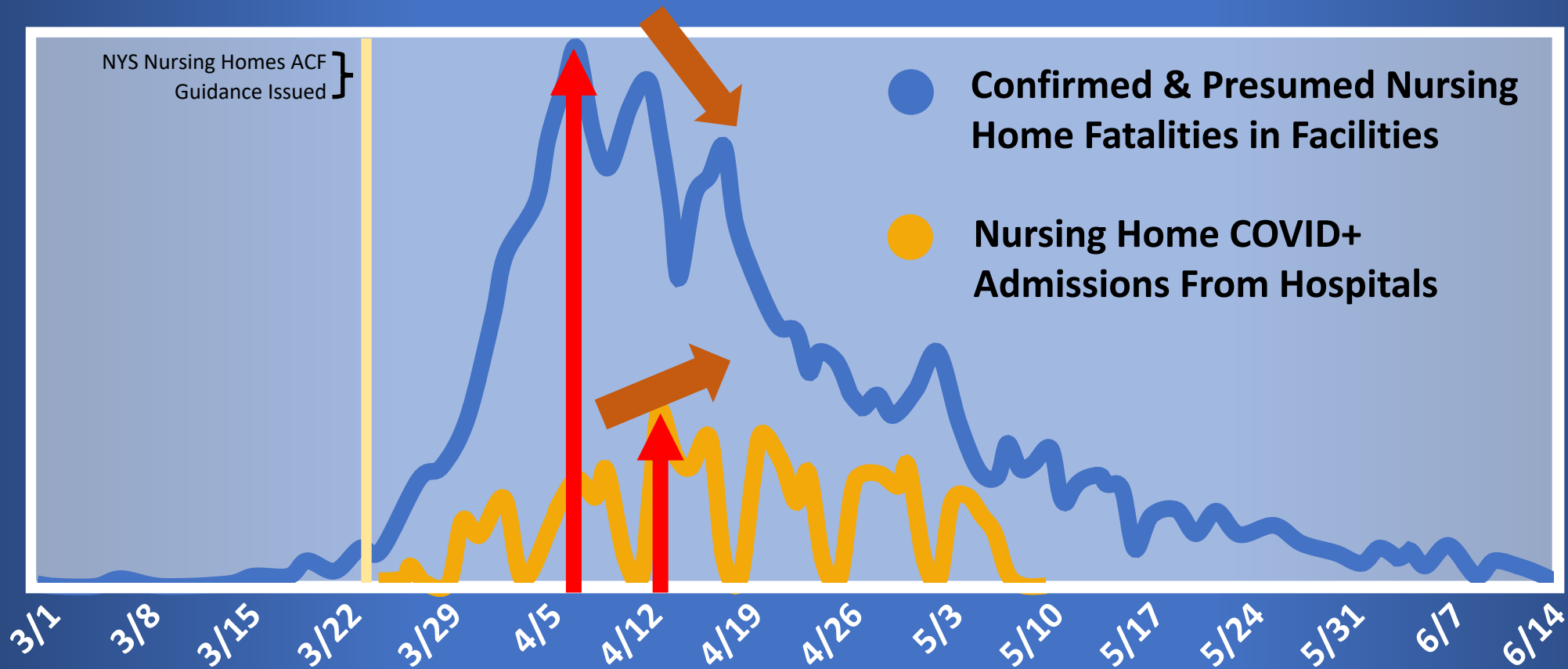
Robert Redfield, Director CDC

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Aggressive Action Taken By New York State

- Restrict nursing home visitors, order worker temperature checks daily, isolation and quarantine procedures for exposed and ill staff & residents.

- Built unprecedented systems for facilities to report real-time data to us, and made that data available to the press and public.

- Aggressive testing for residents and staff

- 1,300 onsite inspections

- 14 million pieces of PPE

- Staffing portal of 96,000 volunteers

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What Does the Data Tell Us?

Of the **310 nursing homes that admitted** COVID patients from hospitals...

...**304 already had COVID** in their nursing homes.

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98% of nursing homes already had COVID

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Increases in Nursing Home & LTC Fatalities, May – July:

2x

3x

2x

"The governor's novel move to cloister ill residents **hasn't prevented the virus from walking through the front doors of nursing homes**. Infected, asymptomatic health workers themselves are carrying the virus and transmitting to their own patients, Mary Mayhew, secretary of the **Florida** Agency for Health Care Administration, said in an interview Wednesday."

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" **What we're finding is staff is coming in contact, without even knowing it. Our communities are truly a microcosm of the larger community."**
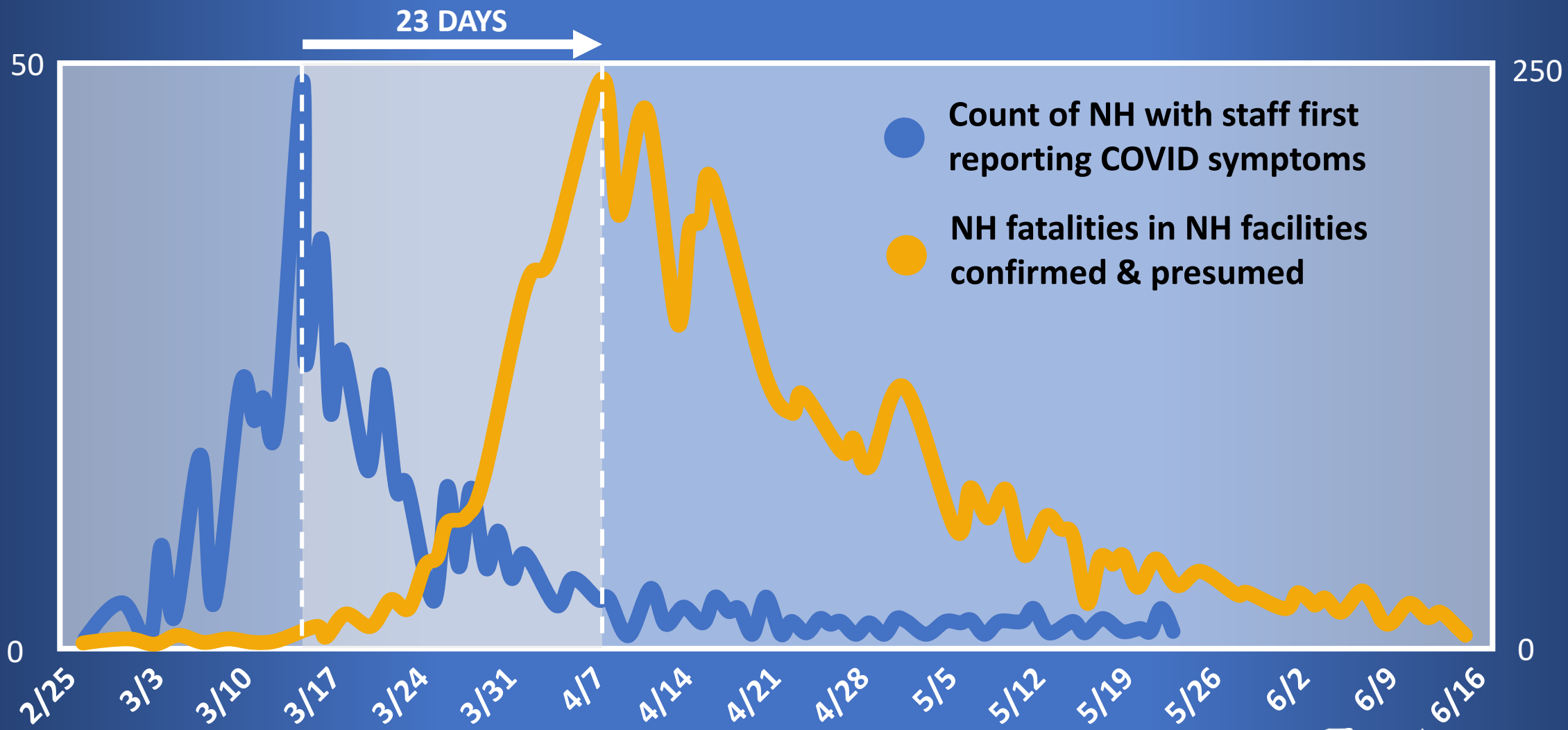
Jay Solomon, CEO of Aviva Campus for Senior Life in Sarasota

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Therefore we asked nursing homes:

Date first staff experienced COVID-19 symptoms or tested positive

How many staff reported symptoms or tested positive

New virus

Limited testing

No symptoms

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~37,000 affected staff

24% of NYS nursing home workforce

Serologic survey of nursing home staff

29% of NYS nursing home workforce

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"No resident shall be denied re-admission or admission to the nursing home *solely* based on confirmed or suspected COVID-19."

AND

Title 10 of the New York State Code of Rules and Regulations, section 415.26: Nursing homes shall "accept and retain only those nursing home residents for whom it can provide adequate care."

In Conclusion

- **COVID-19 was in the nursing homes**

- **Data shows staff and visitors inadvertently brought the virus**

- **Admissions to nursing homes was not the driver**

- **There's still much to learn about this virus**

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