

## Governor Phil Murphy

# Governor Murphy Announces New Jersey National Guard Deployment to Assist Long-Term Care Facilities

01/6/2022

**TRENTON** - Governor Murphy today announced that the New Jersey National Guard will be deploying to long-term care facilities throughout New Jersey to assist with COVID-19 response efforts and to augment facilities' staffing. This is an extension of Joint Task Force COVID Guardian, which has provided coordinated assistance to numerous long-term care facilities since the first weeks of the COVID-19 pandemic.

"Time and time again, the New Jersey National Guard has stepped up to the plate throughout this pandemic," said **Governor Murphy**. "This deployment will send members of our National Guard to long-term care facilities with staffing needs and will act to protect the health and safety of long-term-care residents while the Omicron variant surges throughout the nation.

"COVID-19 is still a threat to our New Jersey communities," said **Department of Military and Veterans Affairs Commissioner Brig. Gen. Lisa Hou, D.O.** "The Soldiers and Airmen of the New Jersey National Guard are working hard every day to protect public health."

"We are grateful to the National Guard for their assistance in caring for the residents of those facilities most in need," said **Department of Health Commissioner Judith Persichilli**. "Throughout this pandemic, protecting our most vulnerable residents has been paramount. As we have seen in the community, COVID-19 cases and outbreaks have been rising for several weeks in our long-term care facilities. We continue to work closely with long-term care facilities throughout the state to ensure that they have the staff they need."

Approximately 150 Soldiers and Airmen of the New Jersey National Guard are preparing to support staffing requirements of more than a dozen long-term care facilities around the state. Guard members will assist regular staff with a variety of tasks, including administrative and logistical support. Members are undergoing training and work is anticipated to start at their assigned locations on Monday, January 10, 2022.

Tasks that National Guard members will assist with will include:

- Assist residents with getting from bed to chair, walking
- Assistance in dressing and daily hygiene activities
- Meal set-up and feeding
- Routine assistance
- Testing and screening staff, residents, and visitors'

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