



March 27, 2020

Dear Members of LeadingAgeNJDE,

I write to you today with a heavy heart for all of us in our industry and the people we serve. Never before in history would we have thought that we would be dealing with a Pandemic war. While here in the US we had been blessed in our life time with no war on our soil, we find ourselves today fighting an enemy that we cannot see and lurks in places that no one ever dreamed or can fully identify. Micro droplets too small to see and often carried unbeknown by the individual. While there are many that are helping us, few know what it is like in our communities and the stress that many are under at this time to plan, prevent, contain and mitigate.

LeadingAgeNJDE is here for you! The last days of news coverage have not been kind to our industry nor the acute care. We all hoped to keep this enemy out of our buildings and have taken countless steps to make that happen. As we listen to the news and hear about the hospital personnel struggles and the mounting number of cases and death, it has become more evident to me that it will soon not be "If" this war comes to our building but it will be "When". If you need policies, procedures, supplies, equipment, PPE, I urge you to reach out to LeadingAgeNJDE and ask for leads or to obtain information. Other members may also have contacts and leads that may help. By all means, reach out to our Business Partners as they are committed to helping us. Please do not feel that you are on an island.

Please stay safe and keep your residents and staff safe.

Praying for all of us,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Colleen P. Frankenfield". The signature is written in a cursive style.

Colleen P. Frankenfield
Chair, LeadingAgeNJDE Board