

# WHCA: Wisconsin celebrates national skilled nursing care week amid COVID-19 crisis

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MADISON - The Wisconsin Health Care Association and the Wisconsin Center for Assisted Living (WHCA/WiCAL) thank Governor Tony Evers for proclaiming May 10-16, 2020 as National Skilled Nursing Care Week in Wisconsin. Established by the American Health Care Association in 1967, National Skilled Nursing Care Week (NSNCW) recognizes the essential role of skilled nursing care centers in caring for America's frail older adults and persons with disabilities.

View the proclamation here: [www.whcawical.org/NSNCW](http://www.whcawical.org/NSNCW)

"Skilled nursing care providers thank Governor Evers for recognizing the frontline caregiver in Wisconsin's skilled nursing facilities," said John Vander Meer, President & CEO of WHCA/WiCAL. "These caregiver heroes work hard every day to protect the health and safety of our state's most frail and vulnerable population. They deserve our respect and support for the work they do."

In his proclamation establishing the observance, Governor Evers thanked caregivers, nurses, staff and volunteers in skilled nursing for their demonstrated selflessness, sacrifice, and empathy on the frontlines of the COVID-19 pandemic. He also encouraged everyone across the state to call, virtually visit, and spend time participating in virtual activities with loved ones living in our state's skilled nursing care centers.

This year's theme for NSNCW is "Sharing Our Wisdom," to celebrate skilled nursing centers, their residents and staff by showcasing the insight, purpose, and wisdom to be learned from our seniors, those living with dementia and people with developmental and intellectual disabilities. Residents offer a unique perspective based on their life experiences, reminding us to be present, celebrate small moments, and value connections.

"This year's celebration and recognition of Wisconsin's skilled nursing providers is

more important than ever, as providers, staff, and residents face significant challenges as a result of COVID-19, including substantial increases in the cost of personal protective equipment and workforce costs,” Vander Meer said. “Our frail elderly skilled nursing care residents are particularly at risk of serious health concerns from COVID-19, and it is critically important that state leaders ensure that providers are able to continue offering high quality care and have the resources necessary to prevent and minimize the spread of this disease.”

For more information on National Skilled Nursing Care Week, including [suggested activities](#), visit [www.ahcancal.org/NSNCW](http://www.ahcancal.org/NSNCW). Share activities, ideas, and experiences using the hashtag, #NSNCW and #CareNotCOVID. Please feel free to tag @WHCAWiCAL as well.

FOR FURTHER READING:

- [www.whcawical.org/workforcereport](http://www.whcawical.org/workforcereport)
- [www.whcawical.org/SNF-Closures](http://www.whcawical.org/SNF-Closures)

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