



# Office of Governor Walz & Lt. Governor Flanagan

November 24, 2020

Dear colleagues,

Thank you for all that you are doing to serve the people of Minnesota during this incredibly trying time. I'm grateful for all that you do for Minnesota.

As a result of the COVID-19 pandemic, skilled nursing and assisted living facilities across the state are facing critical staffing shortages as their employees quarantine due to a COVID-19 diagnosis or exposure. The shortages are leaving many facilities in or near crisis situations where care of residents could be at risk.

**I'm asking you to please consider volunteering for a potential redeployment to help long-term care residents and facilities at some point in the future.** We could need assistance in communities across the state, particularly in Greater Minnesota. Facilities could make use of any RNs, LPNs, or Certified Nursing Assistants (CNAs). No prior experience is required. If needed, we will provide CNA training prior to deployment.

You can expect a deployment would last 14 days and could include nights and weekends. Any costs associated with travel or temporary housing will be covered by the State, and employees will be given personal protective equipment (PPE) that is appropriate for the work, along with training on how to use it. State agency employees who volunteer to be redeployed into long term care facilities will stay in their current payroll status and be paid at their current rate of pay.

To be clear, there is no immediate need for a redeployment. But that need could come in the next weeks or months and we would like to know now who might be interested. If you are willing to volunteer for a redeployment over the next several weeks, first get approval from your supervisor or manager, and then sign up by contacting [eoc.agcy.ess@state.mn.us](mailto:eoc.agcy.ess@state.mn.us). Please send any questions to this same address.

This is an opportunity to assist our most vulnerable neighbors at a time when the need is most critical. Thank you for your thoughtful consideration of this request.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "CS", written over a light blue horizontal line.

Chris Schmitter, Chief of Staff to Governor Tim Walz