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May 17, 2020

Dear Colleagues:

At my request, the Secretary of Health, Rachel Levine, M.D., conveyed the following information on Friday, May 15, 2020:

Sadly, 4,342 of our citizens have died due to Covid-19.

Of these 4,342 tragic deaths, 2,991 of these persons lived in nursing homes, personal care homes and assisted living residences. That means 69% those who have died lived in these types of settings.

Of the 4,342 persons who have died, 4.7% had 5 or more comorbidities, 10.9% had 4 comorbidities, 22% had 3 comorbidities, 28.3% had 2 comorbidities, 24.1% had 1 comorbidity and 10.1% had zero comorbidities.

Of the 4,342 persons who died, 62.1% had hypertension, 54.1% had heart disease, 37.9% had diabetes, 29.1% had chronic pulmonary disease, 24% had chronic kidney disease, 15.3% were immunocompromised and 2.2% had chronic liver disease. A "comorbidity" is "the fact that people who have a disease or condition also have one or more other diseases or conditions" as defined in the Cambridge Dictionary.

According to the Hospital and Health System Association of Pennsylvania (HAP), citing Pennsylvania Department of Health statistics, there are 37,000 beds in Pennsylvania hospitals. As of May 15, 2020, 1,954 of these beds were occupied by Covid-19 patients, which amounts to 5.28%.

As of May 15, 2020, there were 413 patients in Pennsylvania hospitals on ventilators, which amounts to 1.12% of all hospital beds.

Very truly yours,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Mike Turzai".

Mike Turzai
Speaker of the Pennsylvania House of Representatives
Member, 28th District