

BRIGITTE QUINN: Well, with nursing homes so hard hit these days, New Jersey Governor Murphy has ordered the National Guard to long-term facilities, Care One Senior and Assisted Living Founder and CEO Daniel Straus, joining us live on the 1010 WINS news line, this morning, Mr. Straus thank you for being here.

DANIEL STRAUS: Thank you, good morning.

BRIGITTE QUINN: Good Morning to you, have you heard of the National Guard coming to any of your facilities?

No, we have not had the National Guard coming to any of our facilities.

BRIGITTE QUINN: Ok. Mayor de Blasio said this week that a lot of nursing homes are for profit organizations and he wondered, if maybe, they were putting their residents first or profit firsts, Mr. Straus what do you have to say about that?

DANIEL STRAUS: We know the coronavirus does not differentiate between profit and not for profit nursing homes, so I'm not really understanding that comment. Probably better to look at the data. However, what we do know is that the coronavirus does come and it's a pandemic. And it unfortunately, is in particular, the frail elderly, which is the population of nursing homes, are highly susceptible to this pandemic. It's highly contagious. And -- and all of us, millions of Americans are dealing with this and nursing homes in particular are dealing with it.

BRIGITTE QUINN: Yeah, as you say, they -- the elderly are so vulnerable, sadly, to this disease. Do you feel that enough has been done to protect them?

DANIEL STRAUS: So, I -- I think we we're doing everything we can to take all the steps we can to protect them. Care One is a family owned and operated business. Prior to the covid crisis, we have demonstrated best practices in terms of caring for complex care patients, which are -- we take care of sick, primarily elderly people. And as a result, when the coronavirus hit, we were as prepared as any to be able to come forward. And with our very dedicated and courageous staff, we've been working tirelessly to protect as many of the members of our -- of our patient population as possible.

BRIGITTE QUINN: Are family members, would you say, able to get the information about their loved ones?

DANIEL STRAUS: So, we -- early on, as you many know, the -- the government had in order to -- to reduce the rate of infection, created certain barriers to communication that ordinarily would take place on ordinary times, such as having family members visiting. So there are no visitors. And so it makes it a little bit more difficult in terms of the -- the patients communicating directly with their family. However, what we have done is we've gone above and beyond in terms of over communicating and doing as much as we can to create the links between patients and their families. We have dedicated staff members who are working all the time to provide FaceTime and other means of communication between the patients and their loved ones. And also we have a 24/7 hotline as well, as we have created as much transparency in over communication as possible. So we make sure that everybody knows exactly what's going on in our buildings.

BRIGITTE QUINN: With Mother's Day this Sunday, if a patient at one of your facilities is healthy and the family wants to bring that patient home, what do you say to that? Can you do that or is not a good idea?

DANIEL STRAUS: Well, unfortunately, that would be against all guidelines. So what we've done instead of that is, Care One is inviting every family member that wants to participate to come to window visits. And there have been continuing texts alerts and discussions and communication between the family members and the -- the administration of each of the facilities. And we're expecting that we're going to do Mother's Day as best as possible under the -- under the current circumstances.

BRIGITTE QUINN: All right. But you want those patients to stay put and stay safe. It sounds like?

DANIEL STRAUS: That's correct.

BRIGITTE QUINN: All right. Care One Senior and Assisted Living Founder and CEO, Daniel Strauss with us on 1010 WINS this morning, we thank you very much.