



State of Utah

SPENCER J. COX
Governor

DEIDRE M. HENDERSON
Lieutenant Governor

**Utah Department of Health
Executive Director's Office**

Nate Checketts, M.P.A.
Interim Executive Director

Heather R. Borski, M.P.H., M.C.H.E.S.
Deputy Director

Michelle G. Hofmann M.D., M.P.H., M.H.C.D.S., F.A.A.P.
Deputy Director

Disease Control and Prevention
Janae Duncan, M.P.A.
Division Director

February 2, 2022

Utah National Guard Soldiers Supporting Long Term Care Facilities

Dear Administrator,

As you are acutely aware, our Nation's healthcare system is experiencing unprecedented staffing challenges. Throughout Utah, our long-term care facility workforce is overwhelmed and the number of health care workers in isolation due to COVID-19 has further stressed conditions. In response, we are pleased to make you aware of an opportunity for short-term staffing assistance with non-clinical soldiers from Utah's National Guard (UTNG).

Though these soldiers may not perform clinical duties, they are currently being trained to act as nurse aids under the general supervision of facility licensed nursing staff. It is important to note, as with any care or service provided to residents, the facility remains responsible for the quality and safety for the care and service provided by these soldiers. A key factor to the success of this effort will be the on-site instruction, direction and supervision of your licensed nursing and administrative staff. Tasks these soldiers may perform are listed below:

Resident Care / Aides:

- Dress, undress, and bathe residents
- Transfer residents
- Toilet and/or change resident briefs
- Perform COVID tests (if trained)
- Answer call lights
- Assist residents in making phone calls

Dietary:

- Feed residents
- Wash dishes
- Cook and serve food (if the facility pays for a food handler's permit)

Housekeeping/General Support:

- Clean, laundry, change bed linens
- General maintenance
- Conduct resident activities
- Deliver resident mail

Under the direction of the Utah Department of Health, UTNG soldiers will be deployed to those facilities in most critical need for one week. If the facility is still experiencing severe need, this may be extended for an additional week, depending on needs in other areas. Soldiers are able to be scheduled for up to 40 hours



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per week during normal business hours, 8am-5pm Monday through Friday. On rare occasions, they may be able to alter this if urgently required, but note that they have weekend drills and training.

Requesting Support: In order to request this incredible resource, please fill out the attached Google Form with facility details. Requests MUST be submitted no later than Thursday at 12 NOON the week prior to receiving support. All requests will be analyzed within the following 24 hours to determine facilities in most need of support, and to make assignments. Facilities who will be receiving soldiers will be notified as soon as possible the weekend before arrival.

Google Form link:

<https://docs.google.com/forms/d/e/1FAIpQLSfSWO6jWHytOmCmgjdfI2bbV5sIHYYOYT85rGSsQpUw81d4bw/viewform>