



HERITAGE SPECIALTY CARE STATEMENT

March 31, 2020

Heritage Specialty Care in Cedar Rapids has experienced residents and staff testing positive for Covid-19. The first two positive tests were on Tuesday, March 24. For questions regarding the daily count of Covid-19 positive individuals please refer to the Iowa Department of Public Health (IDPH).

Since early March we have been preparing for and implementing infection control procedures such as re-educating and emphasizing proper hand-washing technique. On March 11 we implemented a “no visitors” policy which restricted access to our building. At the outset of our first positive cases, we have been in daily communication and coordination with the IDPH and Linn County Public Health regarding recommendations for addressing Covid-19 and those daily interactions are on-going. The infection control recommendations in place include practicing enhanced infection control measures within our building, which means all of our direct care staff are donning personal protective equipment (PPE) to include gowns, gloves, face shields or protective eyewear, and face masks. All other employees are wearing face masks at a minimum. In addition we have been practicing social distancing with our residents by eliminating communal dining and group activities. For our residents who have tested positive for Covid-19, they are isolated from the other residents and cared for in a segregated section of the building by a dedicated team of our care givers. We are following all recommendations from the CDC, IDPH and Linn County Public Health.

Our staff have done an incredible job going above and beyond during this challenging time. Many are sacrificing special occasions like birthdays, anniversaries and time with their own families to take care of our residents. Our employees have pulled together to support each other, lift each other’s spirits, and maintain a smile on their mask-covered faces. We are incredibly proud of how our team has responded at a time unlike any other. Our facility and our employees have received an outpouring of support from our resident’s families, the public and our colleagues in the healthcare field, and for that we are grateful. We will continue to put the safety and needs of our residents first and foremost.

Family members of residents are welcome to contact us at 319-396-7171 with questions. All media call 515-218-5160. (END)