



HERITAGE SPECIALTY CARE MESSAGE MAY 28, 2020

Heritage Specialty Care has been deemed by the Iowa Department of Public Health (IDPH) and the Linn County Health Department to be “Recovered” after 28 consecutive days of no residents testing positive and none active with the COVID-19 virus. COVID-19 is still active in Iowa and in our community and we know better than to take this good news for granted. Heritage Specialty Care will continue to follow CDC and IDPH infection control guidelines and do our best to prevent the introduction of the virus back into the building.

COVID-19 has proven to be a dreadful virus. 65 days ago we learned of our first positive case. In that time our residents and staff have been in a battle against an invisible virus. One that affects a vulnerable population and those who care for them. It disrupts lives. It can make people sick. And it doesn't care who gets in its way.

To our residents, you have endured over two months of many disruptions. You've been limited to your rooms. You haven't been able to socialize with family, friends or fellow residents in the same way. Group activities haven't been what they used to be. However, your patience and cooperation helped to pull us through. For this we are grateful.

To our families, through no fault of your own you were asked to refrain from personally visiting your loved ones. It was more than social-distancing. Your window visits, phone calls and video chats helped to get your loved ones - our residents – through. Your support of our staff was heartening and provided strength to help get them through. For this we are grateful.

To our employees, you've shown yourselves to be a team of heroes willing to stay the course of doing what's right by our residents. You've had to limit your personal time with family or adjust to not being able to go about your normal routines outside of work, all in the name of safety for our residents. It's been a trialing time but your hard work, professionalism and determination has helped to pull us through. For this we are grateful.

To the community, we have so many to thank and not enough space and time to do so. Your gifts of snacks, food, letters, encouraging notes, signs, prayers and prayer vigils were appreciated by everyone. When times were tough, and we had our share, the strength we gained through your support was immeasurable.

We also take this moment to reflect and mourn those who have passed during this time. The loss of a resident is never easy. The emotions of family and staff were amplified by the limits of personal interaction and the sterile environment imposed upon us by this unforgiving virus. To those who lost loved ones during this time, we provide our deepest sympathies.

We are still in a battle, but we're now able to see a little more sunlight in our tomorrows. We look forward to the day we are allowed to get back to “normal”.