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COVID-19 at Riverside Healthcare Center

Ithaca, Stanton, St. Johns- The Mid-Michigan District Health Department (MMDHD) and Riverside Healthcare Center of St. Louis are reporting a cluster of COVID-19 cases at its facility.

To date, 12 residents and three staff members have tested positive for COVID-19. Unfortunately, one resident has passed away from the illness.

The employees who tested positive are self-isolating at home and are not in contact with residents. Residents who tested positive are being isolated in their rooms and all group activities have been cancelled. All residents and employees are being monitored for symptoms of COVID-19.

“Riverside Healthcare Center took extensive measures to protect its residents and staff from COVID-19, but the virus still managed to infiltrate the building,” said Sarah Doak, MMDHD Community Health and Education Division Director. “COVID-19 is very contagious and can spread easily among a vulnerable population, such as those residing in long-term care centers.”

Riverside Healthcare Center has been working closely with MMDHD to help reduce the spread of COVID-19 at its facility by following Centers for Disease Control (CDC) guidelines. They have tested all residents and staff and remain committed to doing everything they can to help prevent further spread of the illness. Mid-Michigan District Health Department will continue to monitor this group of positive cases and provide infection control guidance as needed.

“Riverside started preparing and implementing safety protocols for Covid-19, beginning on March 6, 2020. Riverside implemented and is following guidelines issued by the CDC, Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services (CMS), and all Federal, State and local authorities. We continue to work closely with, and greatly appreciate the support we have received from MMDHD, MidMichigan Medical Center - Gratiot and Gratiot County Emergency Dispatch,” said the Riverside Healthcare Center Administrator, Al Raza. “They have provided assistance with testing, PPE, and ongoing management of COVID-19 residents at the facility. Mid-Michigan District Health Department is in communication with our team on a daily basis and making every effort to rid Riverside of COVID-19. The Riverside Healthcare Center team is deeply saddened by the loss of our resident and we will miss her, dearly. “

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Riverside Healthcare Center implemented the following strategies, recommended by CDC, CMS and State and local authorities to help protect residents and staff from COVID-19:

- Taking temperatures on all residents and staff twice a day
- All staff, vendors or visitors washing hands at entry and before exit at the wash station
- Monitoring resident's respiratory status two times a day
- Shutting down all communal spaces
- Quarantining residents to their rooms
- Prohibiting all non-essential visitors
- Hypervigilant cleaning and disinfection of the facility
- Enhancing hand hygiene and use of personal protective equipment for staff, including N95 masks and gowns

Employees who have tested positive for COVID-19 will not be able to return to work until:

- At least three days (72 hours) have passed since recovery defined as resolution of fever without the use of fever-reducing medications and improvement in respiratory symptoms
- At least ten days have passed since symptoms first appeared
- All symptoms have improved and employee has been released from monitoring by MMDHD

To date, MMDHD has had 192 confirmed cases of COVID-19 and 13 deaths in its jurisdiction:

Clinton County: 120 cases and 10 deaths

Gratiot County: 26 cases and 2 deaths

Montcalm County: 46 cases and 1 death

Mid-Michigan District Health Department continues to perform contact tracing for all identified COVID-19 positive individuals in its jurisdiction.

Now that more testing is being completed throughout the State of Michigan, we expect positive case counts to continue to rise.

For updated information, visit www.mmdhd.org or www.michigan.gov/coronavirus.

Mid-Michigan District Health Department serves the residents of Clinton, Gratiot and Montcalm Counties.

We take action to protect, maintain and improve the health of our community.

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