

## **Heritage of Edina must remain on lock-down until further notice.**

As everyone is aware from watching the news, the CDC and the MDH have changed their guidelines several times since the outbreak of Covid-19. Heritage has been following the guidelines as every change is made. The new guidelines put into place on April 3<sup>rd</sup> stated every employee was to wear a mask. Those in close contact giving cares to residents should wear a surgical mask, those in the facility not in close contact with residents like dietary and housekeeping and maintenance could wear a homemade mask to protect others

Since March 9<sup>th</sup>, 2020 we've been screening every single employee, every single shift upon entering the facility taking temps and doing a symptoms screening. We informed all employees that anyone who is ill is not to come to work making sure they were aware of all the symptoms of Covid-19. They were to avoid touching their face, cover their cough or sneeze with a tissue. We talked with them about the importance of handwashing and making sure to always wash for at least 20 seconds after touching any common service and also to use hand sanitizer with >60% ethyl / Isopropyl alcohol content whenever needed or if handwashing was not available at that moment. Every residents' apartment has hand sanitizer and there is also hand sanitizer at each nursing station. Our staff wears gloves and changes them upon entering and after leaving any resident's apartment. We also opened up several new handwashing stations on the floors making sure they were fully stocked. There was to be no scheduled cross-over staffing. Housekeeping increased their services and made sure to use a product approved by the CDC to be effective against Covid-19 and started wiping down all common areas multiple times per day including weekends.

On March 13<sup>th</sup> we completely shut down our buildings making sure no one, unless deemed essential, was to enter the facility. Anyone that was deemed essential, which included staff and outside vendors (oxygen, hospice and skilled nursing, etc.) must have their temp and a symptoms screening done before they were allowed on the floors. They were also instructed to remain 6 feet apart from staff and employees. We started teleconferencing with our physicians to make sure all needed acute doctor visits could be completed with much less risk to our residents. All resident community cross-over was stopped, which meant no shared activities or beauty shop appointments so that all residents would remain in their own buildings and on their own floors.

This has been a tumultuous time for all of us, residents, families and staff alike, but I want you to know, the staff here at Heritage has truly been incredible! Everyone cares so much about our residents that call-ins at this time are rare. Everyone wants to be here and wants to take care of these wonderful people. They've been working tirelessly and with a smile that can't be seen under their mask. That's where our increased one-on-one visits from activities has helped. They've been talking with the residents, taking pictures, asking them questions to post on Facebook so our families can see how they're doing. We've had beautiful donations for the residents from multiple families. Things that really make a difference for the residents if even for a moment.

We will get through this but only if we do this together. So please families, follow the rules. As the outbreak of Covid-19 continues, you must remember, we cannot allow families to enter the building. If you have supplies or any items to deliver to your loved ones please call ahead and we can arrange an area for you to drop it off. Families CANNOT enter the facility unless absolutely needed which would be determined by the facility on a case by case basis.

We will continue to keep you updated and we ask that you go to [heritageofedina.com](http://heritageofedina.com) for any Covid-19 updates as we're not able to call or email everyone back with their questions.

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