

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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Northfield Retirement Community Taking Proactive Measures in COVID-19 Case

NORTHFIELD, MN – For the past several weeks, Northfield Retirement Community (NRC) has been practicing proactive infection control measures, screening procedures and visitor restrictions due to the COVID-19 pandemic. NRC reported on April 15 there was a confirmed resident case of COVID-19 in the community's Cannon Valley Suites assisted living unit. The resident who tested positive for COVID-19 is isolated individually and is being treated by designated staff team members. Although no other residents currently demonstrate COVID-19 symptoms, some additional testing is underway.

“We are doing everything we are able for the resident who was confirmed positive,” said NRC President and CEO Kyle Nordine. “We are certainly concerned for the health of our resident, and we are also concerned for our entire community.”

Northfield Retirement Community has been working in collaboration with the Minnesota Department of Health and following all recommendations from the Centers for Disease Control & Prevention and the Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services to ensure a clean, safe environment for all residents and staff.

“This is an extremely unfortunate event that one of our residents has fallen ill in spite of our significant efforts to keep everyone protected and healthy,” Nordine said. “With this current news, we are taking every step to treat this individual to seek a full recovery, and to keep all other residents and all staff safe as we are able.”

NRC's medical director, Dr. Steven Lawler, is leading the clinical response to the positive test while direct support from the Minnesota Department of Health will provide additional operational guidance. As part of its response plan, NRC has implemented the following:

- **Enhanced infection control measures**

NRC is restricting residents from congregating in social spaces, requiring residents to keep safe within their rooms and requiring that residents and care providers wear a mask during cares and if or when the need arises to leave their room. There are dedicated staff to serve residents who are infected or may be at higher risk, and isolation is required for any COVID-19 positive residents.

- **Monitoring and screening of residents**

NRC continues to monitor residents' temperatures daily and screen for symptoms.

- **Monitoring and screening of staff**

Staff are not allowed in any building if they are ill.

- **Cancelling all activities involving outside visitors**

NRC continues to practice social distancing by limiting nearly all outside visitors and any group activities.

“We will continue to coordinate with our state and federal regulatory agencies to take the necessary steps to best protect residents and staff from this virus and prevent it from spreading to the broader community,” Nordine said.

In order to reduce transmission, decrease the number of affected residents and staff, and maintain essential service, NRC is working with the Minnesota Department of Health, State Emergency Operations Center as well as others to access robust testing, increase quantities of personal protective equipment and gain quick access to testing results.

Nordine added that for those seniors who might be positive with the virus but do not require hospitalization, or who have already successfully received hospitalization, NRC’s settings are the most appropriate care location for them to recover – in isolation with a designated staff team specifically assigned to serve these individuals.

The long-term care community, including NRC, has been involved in planning with the Minnesota Department of Health, local health care officials, and health care providers so everyone is prepared to respond to this pandemic, provide treatment in the most appropriate location, decrease transmission of the virus, and not put residents and staff at any additional risk than possible.

“We have seen an unprecedented outpouring of care and concern for our community,” Nordine said. “We are so grateful to the local community and staff for sticking together and working thru this. All of the cards, gifts, masks, meals, flowers and good wishes have been greatly appreciated.”

About Northfield Retirement Community

Northfield Retirement Community has a 50-year history of providing quality housing and services specifically designed to meet the physical, social, emotional and spiritual needs of older adults. The organization currently operates or manages seven senior living facilities across the community: Northfield ParkView, SouthView Suites, Cannon Valley Suites, Northwood Pines, Northfield Manor, Evergreen Lodge and Northfield Care Center. Providing a range of services – from round-the-clock care to minimal home care assistance – the housing options available focus on giving adults, age 55 or older, the assistance they need to lead healthy, meaningful lives. More information about Northfield Retirement Community is available at northfieldretirement.org.