



3 Pennsylvania Place Ottumwa, Iowa 52501 641-683-3372

November 17, 2020

We are happy to announce that effective yesterday all of our resident COVID-19 cases have been released by public health. Even though we only had a handful of cases recently, the virus has been difficult to manage. We continue to screen and test all residents and staff frequently. The cost of each test is between \$40 and \$75 and does not include the extensive labor involved. Personal protective equipment has also been difficult to purchase however we have maintained a good supply. Staffing has also been a challenge due to college shutdowns and staff illnesses. The facility has undergone four infection control surveys by the State and Federal government since June and no concerns have been identified.

The recent surge of COVID-19 in the area continues to limit our ability to allow visitors. All three facilities in Ottumwa and many others in the surrounding area are in outbreak status. I expect the Iowa Department of Public Health to drop our facility from that status early next week. The facility is attempting to allow the beautician back in the building ASAP per the request of residents, families, and our staff. Unfortunately, our previous beautician works at other assisted living facilities and unable to return to us because of concerns of spreading the virus. The facility is in the process of finding her replacement. The beautician will be required to follow strict infection control guidelines with only allowing one resident at a time in her shop, sanitizing all equipment and wearing masks.

Vaccinations are expected to be delivered within the next few weeks. We have purchased a special freezer to store those vaccinations and making other preparations.

There are a lot of healthcare heroes working and fighting right now. Our thoughts are with you and all facilities, hospitals and individuals on the front line fighting COVID-19. We also want to thank all of our staff for everything they do.

Sincerely,

Ron Stursma, Administrator