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**GRAND TRAVERSE PAVILIONS TEST HIGH RISK RESIDENTS FOR COVID-19**

TRAVERSE CITY, MICHIGAN, March 19, 2020 – Grand Traverse Pavilions has been at the forefront of prevention and preparation for the Coronavirus in our community over the past several weeks. Leadership and specifically the environmental services and clinical teams have been diligently preparing our facility for the potential of accepting new patients or treating current residents that have been identified with a compromised respiratory condition. With the recent availability of testing kits for the COVID-19 disease in our community, Grand Traverse Pavilions Medical Director, Dr. April Kurkowski, identified residents for testing.

The recommendation to test was based on the most recent CDC guidelines issued in the past 24 hours for individuals who currently are being treated for other respiratory illnesses that may be co-presenting with the Coronavirus, such as pneumonia. The results of the recent tests are still pending at this time.

On a conference call yesterday with the Clinical Outreach and Communication Activity (COCA), who is charged by the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) to provide timely, accurate, and credible information to clinicians related to emergency preparedness and response to emerging public health threats, it was recommended that clinicians consider testing high risk patients with respiratory illnesses for the coronavirus. That new indication has shown that the predetermined symptoms for the virus, may be masked by other related respiratory infections such as pneumonia. According to Dr. Kurkowski “*We are working with the Health Department, and are following CDC guidelines to identify and test those residents who fit the established criteria. We are also ruling out other possible causes for their symptoms and are treating them symptomatically.”*

“The Pavilions staff has been preparing for this reality, and has set new processes and protocols in place to restrict the spread of the disease in the facility. A specific isolation area has been established and will be activated as needed” states Rose Coleman, Chief Operating Officer/Clinical Services for the facility. The Infection Control team meets every morning to review new mandates from the CDC and to discuss staffing scenarios. “*We realize that family members and our current residents are deeply concerned about the potential threat, we are committed to making the safety of our residents and staff our utmost priority,”* assured Coleman.

Family members of current Grand Traverse Pavilions residents are encouraged to call their social worker for updates and to make arrangements to talk directly to their loved ones via skype or facetime. More information will be provided as it becomes available, and as always the Pavilions remains grateful to the community for its ongoing support and encouragement as we navigate these undeniably difficult and unprecedented times.

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**About Grand Traverse Pavilions**
[Grand Traverse Pavilions](https://www.gtpavilions.org) is the region’s first and only nonprofit Continuum of Care. Providing services for more than 300 residents and 100 daily program participants, Grand Traverse Pavilions is a community of caring and innovation primarily for our region’s low-income seniors, with Wellness Center programs for the entire community. Grand Traverse Pavilions has received Nursing Care Center accreditation by the Joint Commission along with Post-Acute Care and Memory Care certifications. A recipient of the Governor’s Quality Care Award, The Pavilions is owned by Grand Traverse County and governed by the Grand Traverse County Department of Health and Human Services Board. Learn more about Grand Traverse Pavilions by visiting [www.gtpavilions.org.](https://www.gtpavilions.org/)