



**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

April 20, 2020

**Media Contacts**

Julie Benedict, Corporate Marketing Coordinator  
Heritage Property Management  
(616) 843-6370, [jbenedict@heritagepmi.com](mailto:jbenedict@heritagepmi.com)  
Kristina Wieghmink, Public Information Officer  
Ottawa County Department of Public Health  
(616) 510-8523, [kwieghmink@miottawa.org](mailto:kwieghmink@miottawa.org)

**Heritage Senior Communities Testing All Assisted Living Residents and Staff**

At Sheldon Meadows Assisted Living and all Heritage Senior Communities Assisted Living Homes, we recognize our role and responsibility during this uncertain time to prioritize two things: the health and well-being of our residents and employees while also playing a constructive role in supporting local health officials and government leaders as they work to contain the spread of coronavirus (COVID-19).

With the guidance of the Ottawa County Department of Public Health, we implemented a multi-level plan as the virus became more prevalent in our area. "We understand this pandemic has caused a great deal of disruption and angst for every one of us, whether in our senior communities or our homes," said Lauren Gowman, Director of Operations at Heritage Property Management. "We want to assure you that we will continue to be transparent and communicative as we adapt our processes. The health and well-being of our residents and staff is our highest priority."

"We are grateful for the close partnership we've had with the Heritage Senior Communities as we work through this difficult time," said Dr. Paul Heidel, Medical Director with the Ottawa County Department of Public Health. "We are hopeful with more testing now becoming available across the state, that we will better understand where the virus is and how to minimize its spread. The effects this pandemic has had on the senior community is a reminder of how our whole community needs to be vigilant with our actions to keep this virus from spreading."

The Heritage assisted living communities, throughout the State of Michigan are exercising LEVEL 5 Precautions which include the following safety measures:

- All non-essential visitors are prohibited from entering. Visitors that are allowed include Physicians/Nurse Practitioners/Physician Assistants, Hospice Providers, Medically necessary ancillary services.
- Daily health-screening questionnaires and temperature checks for incoming staff as well as a second temperature screening mid-shift are required.

- All residents remain in their apartments with all care, medications, meals and activities being delivered directly.

Additionally, at Sheldon Meadows in Hudsonville, we have created an area of the building to care for COVID-19 positive residents who are isolated from those who are asymptomatic. Safety measures include a staging area for delivery of essentials, enhanced disinfection precautions and use of personal protective equipment. Several staff members have voluntarily dedicated themselves to providing this essential care, including living on-site.

Heritage Senior Communities' corporate managers have established a relationship with a Michigan-based physician & lab service, to proactively provide coronavirus testing for ALL assisted living residents and ALL staff at each of our nine communities. The testing process began last week and results are beginning to be reported at three locations, with the remaining six to be tested this week.

"Because we know that there are asymptomatic carriers of this virus, we feel that proactive testing is our best option for protecting our residents, our staff and their families at home," said Scott Reenders, President, Heritage Property Management.

#### **As of Monday, April 20, 2020**

Laboratory-confirmed COVID-19 positive cases at Sheldon Meadows Assisted Living in Hudsonville, MI -

Residents: 6 and Staff: 2

Deceased Residents: 6

(4 with laboratory-confirmation and 2 probable-those who were in close contact with a laboratory-confirmed case and symptomatic but not tested)

###

Sheldon Meadows Assisted Living Center is an assisted living community in Hudsonville, Michigan. Fully licensed by the Michigan Department of Health and Human Services, Sheldon Meadows offers assisted living, memory care, respite and day services to West Michigan-area seniors. Heritage Senior Communities is a fourth-generation, family-owned and -operated company dedicated to bringing quality senior housing and licensed assisted living. Based in Grand Haven, MI, Heritage Senior Communities is managed by Heritage Property Management, Inc.

The Ottawa County Department of Public Health (OCDPH) works to assure conditions that promote and protect health for the people of Ottawa County. Under the Public Health Code Act 368 of 1978, a local health department continually and diligently endeavors to prevent disease, prolong life and promote public health through organized programs including prevention and control of environmental health hazards; prevention and control of diseases; prevention and control of health problems of particularly vulnerable population groups; development of health care facilities and health services delivery systems; and regulation of health care facilities and health services delivery systems to the extent provided by law. Learn more at [www.miOttawa.org/miHealth](http://www.miOttawa.org/miHealth).