



JOINT NEWS RELEASE

TWO CRAWFORD COUNTY LONG-TERM CARE FACILITIES REPORT CLUSTER OF COVID-19 CASES

DHD#10 assisting facilities with resident and employee safety

April 21, 2020 – District Health Department #10 (DHD#10) is working closely with two Crawford County long-term care facilities after a cluster of COVID-19 cases were confirmed. Both Munson Healthcare Crawford Continuing Care Center and Grayling Nursing & Rehabilitation Community report that several employees and residents have confirmed COVID-19.

Munson Healthcare Crawford Continuing Care Center reports that 5 staff members and 5 residents have COVID-19. Grayling Nursing & Rehabilitation Community reports that 10 staff members and 7 residents were confirmed with COVID-19. Unfortunately, two of the twelve nursing home residents have passed away as a result of COVID-19. Of the staff cases reported at each location, not all reside in Crawford County. There are currently 30 confirmed COVID-19 cases in Crawford County. Seven cases linked to these two facilities reside outside of Crawford County.

“We are monitoring this situation closely and we put the safety of our residents and staff as our top priority,” said Dianne Michalek, Munson Healthcare public information officer. “Residents who have tested positive are being isolated and cared for. On March 11 we began prohibiting all visitors and have been screening all employees who enter the facility. We understand that our residents are those at highest risk and we continue to follow safety precautions recommended by the Center for Disease Control and Prevention and World Health Organization to further control the spread of this virus.”

Grayling Nursing & Rehabilitation Community Director of Operations, Anthony Abela, states that they are working hard to assure residents and families that safety is their top priority. “Many nursing homes contain our state’s most at risk population, and dedicated nurses and frontline staff have been designated to keep them safe while working to contain this highly contagious virus,” said Abela. “Our staff who have been diagnosed with COVID-19 are currently on leave while they recover. Moreover, our nursing team has been working hard to gain the upper hand to fight COVID-19. Grayling Nursing and Rehabilitation will continue to rely on State and Federal guidelines, community assistance in prevention, and the high quality of care that Crawford County has come to know and appreciate in their community.”

Along with notifying residents and family members, and following all state and federal recommendations to prevent further spread of COVID-19, both facilities have taken the following critical steps:

- Utilization of a separate and isolated unit for positive COVID-19 patients, including those who are displaying symptoms but have not yet tested positive. These units are staffed with a dedicated team who are trained in handling COVID-19 patients.



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- Utilizing full Personal Protective Equipment (PPE) for all direct patient care to limit the possibility of patient-to-caregiver transmission.
- Providing PPE (including face mask) for non-direct caregiver protection.
- Performing pre-shift screening of all employees, as well as continued screening of employees and resident frequently throughout the day to monitor for potential COVID-19 symptoms.
- Providing continuous staff education on prevention techniques, including proper hand washing and universal precautions.
- Limiting visitation from the community members to reduce the possibility of exposure from external sources.

DHD #10 continues to work closely with all facilities that house high-risk populations within our ten-county jurisdiction. We have developed specific toolkits that provide guidance on mitigating the risk and spread of COVID-19 to residents and employees.

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