



Saint Therese

Statement from Saint Therese

Date: April 22, 2020

Saint Therese of New Hope's everyday priority is maintaining the health and well-being of all our residents. We are driven to serve our community in heartfelt ways that are aligned with our mission: do ordinary things with extraordinary love. We care deeply about the role we play in the lives of our residents and sincerely grieve the loss of anyone to this devastating virus.

Our 258-bed senior care center initiated aggressive infection control measures and proactive screening on March 13 to prevent the spread of COVID-19. Since then, some residents and employees have tested positive for Coronavirus.

We have worked closely since the beginning with the Minnesota Department of Health (MDH), which assigned an infection control specialist to consult with us regularly on adherence to MDH guidelines and those of the Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services and the Centers for Disease Control & Prevention (CDC) to protect residents and employees from COVID-19.

Steps taken so far include closing our building to all visitors, canceling activities involving outside visitors, restricting unnecessary movement and congregate gatherings in the building, and increased sanitization in high-touch and common areas. Residents have been asked to practice social distancing and frequent hand-washing.

Employees undergo integrated COVID-19 screening before each shift and mid-shift to ensure no one is allowed inside if ill. The process includes obtaining a temperature reading and answering specific questions related to COVID-19. Anyone with COVID-19 symptoms must self-quarantine at home.

"The dedication of Saint Therese employees is nothing short of inspiring. Every day, these incredible caregivers are tirelessly delivering compassionate care under challenging circumstances and working to aggressively prevent and mitigate the spread of COVID-19," said Barb Rode, CEO and President.

Saint Therese will continue to advocate for widespread testing and the availability of PPE for all caregivers and employees. Once available, we can all unite in our efforts to stop the spread of COVID-19.