



For immediate release:

April 1, 2020

Contact:

Alecia DiMario

(802) 863-6384

adimario@birchwoodterrace.com

Birchwood Terrace Residents Test Positive for COVID-19
Patients Isolated and Receiving Care at Facility

BURLINGTON, VT – Birchwood Terrace was informed by the Vermont Department of Health on Monday that a resident had tested positive for COVID-19. We immediately took certain precautionary measures including testing numerous residents- even those who had not shown any symptoms of the virus- as a precautionary measure to curtail any potential virus spread in the facility. Today we were informed that six additional patients had tested positive for the virus. We are also waiting on several other test results at this time. The residents continue to receive the full medical care they need and are isolated from other residents. These are the first positive tests at the facility.

Birchwood staff have been in regular contact with the Health Department to discuss guidance and appropriate recommendations, as well as with the providers at UVM Medical Center who care for our patients. Our team has also reached out to affected residents and family members to keep them informed of the situation.

“This is a very difficult time for facilities like ours, and we are working with UVM Medical Center and the Health Department to identify any other patients or staff who may have been exposed to the virus,” said Birchwood Terrace Executive Director Alecia DiMario. “The health and safety of our residents and staff is our number one priority. We are testing affected residents to help ensure their health, and we will continue to be proactive and vigilant in curtailing spread of the virus.”

“I want to thank all of our nursing home employees and partners who are working so hard to provide safe and compassionate care to our residents during this challenging time,” said DiMario. “We are grateful to them for going over and above and hopeful for our residents’ full recovery.”

Birchwood has strictly followed Centers for Disease Control & Prevention (CDC) guidelines for screening and prevention since the beginning of the COVID-19 outbreak in Vermont. The organization has also been following guidance from the Health Department and Centers for

Medicare and Medicaid Services, and not allowing visitors except for medical necessity and end-of-life situations.

Visitors and employees must pass a screening protocol, and residents have been screened daily and closely monitored. Birchwood has also been following guidance of the and Infectious Disease team at UVM Medical Center regarding parameters and guidelines for testing residents.

“Birchwood Terrace has been proactive in their efforts to maintain the safety of their residents and staff, and our Infectious Diseases experts have been working in consultation with them,” said Michael LaMantia, MD, a geriatrician and section head of geriatric medicine at The University of Vermont Medical Center. “Our thoughts are with these patients and their loved ones.”

For COVID-19 information and guidance, visit healthvermont.gov/covid19.

###

About Birchwood Terrace

Birchwood Terrace is a 144-bed Skilled Nursing Facility located in Burlington's North End. From intensive short term rehabilitation therapy to longer-term restorative care, Birchwood Terrace provides a full range of nursing care and social services to treat and support each of our residents' needs.

Visit <http://birchwoodterrace.com/>