



Statement to Interested Parties – October 23, 2020

The Laurels of Canton was able to remain free of COVID-19 until the beginning of October, a tremendous feat considering the unpredictability and aggressiveness of the virus and the vulnerability of those in congregate living settings. Unfortunately, with rising community positivity rates in Stark County and the surrounding areas, the facility has also now experienced positive cases among the residents and staff in a quick onset. The facility's most up-to-date COVID-related data is publicly available on its COVID-19 resources page at www.laurelsofcanton.com/covid-19-resources.

As the safety and well-being of our residents, employees, visitors, and surrounding community is our top priority, we are doing everything we can to limit the spread of the virus. The Laurels has been implementing and acting on guidance from external agencies such as the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC), Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services, and the Department of Health and Human Services since February 28, 2020. We have continually monitored residents and screened staff members and essential external personnel for symptoms daily. Our leadership team has maintained close communication with local and state health officials to ensure we are following recommended preventative steps, and we modify our actions based on the guidance we are given.

Residents who test positive receive supportive care in a designated COVID unit at the facility or are transported to a local hospital for additional treatment. Staff members who test positive must quarantine for 14 days prior to returning to work.

While positive cases are unfortunately something to be anticipated due to the recent increased spread of COVID-19 across the country, it is a difficult situation for everyone involved and we empathize with our residents, employees, families and community during this unprecedented time.

We truly appreciate everyone's cooperation, understanding and support.

Respectfully,

Hayley Simpson

Regional Director of Operations, Laurel Health Care Company

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