



## Statement to Interested Parties – December 7, 2020

The Laurels of Mt. Vernon, a skilled nursing and rehabilitation center in Mt. Vernon, Ohio, released the following statement regarding its recent COVID-19 outbreak.

The statement is attributable to **Hayley Simpson, Regional Director of Operations:**

*“Our thoughts and prayers go out to our residents, associates and family members impacted by this current situation. We are doing everything we can to limit the spread of COVID-19 within our facility, and we’ll continue to provide quality care to all our residents, no matter their diagnosis.*

*Throughout the pandemic, we have followed continuously-evolving directives from the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC), Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services, and other external agencies to reduce the spread and impact of COVID-19. In addition, we have been in regular contact with local and state health officials to ensure our staff and residents are following proper infection prevention and control procedures. **We modify our actions based on the guidance we are given.***

*The Laurels of Mt. Vernon has continually satisfied infection control requirements and expectations over the past nine months as the skilled nursing industry as a whole has faced increased regulatory scrutiny. We want to emphasize that even with stringent infection control protocols in place, outbreaks in facilities like The Laurels can, and will, still occur. **Independent research has found that outbreaks in nursing homes are directly linked to high spread in the surrounding community.** The best support a community can provide to nursing home residents and staff is to be compliant and cooperative with CDC guidance on social distancing, wearing a mask and supporting vaccination as it becomes available.*

*This is a challenging time for **everyone**, but we remain focused. I want to thank our tremendous associates for their heroic efforts, as well as our many friends in the community who have shown us tremendous compassion and understanding.”*