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**NEWS RELEASE**

To: Local Media

From: Marie-Noel Sandoval, MPH, Health Officer

Date: April 29<sup>th</sup>, 2020

**COVID-19 Weekday Update**

As of today at 2:00pm, there have been 6,520 confirmed positive cases of COVID-19 in the State of Wisconsin. Statewide, 308 individuals have died due to complications related to COVID-19. In Rock County, there have been a total of 183 confirmed positive cases and six deaths. There have been a minimum of 1,797 negative tests results reported in our county.

Please visit our website, [www.co.rock.wi.us/publichealth](http://www.co.rock.wi.us/publichealth) for additional local COVID-19 information updated daily.

**Home Instead**

The Rock County Public Health Department continues to work closely with local facilities and business to reduce the spread of COVID-19 in our community. Home Instead Senior Care releases the following statement:

As a leading provider of in-home care for older adults, Home Instead Senior Care serving Janesville prioritizes the health and safety of our clients, CAREGivers and the communities we serve above all else. To date, we can confirm that we have had 3 employees test positive for COVID-19. Two of these individuals have recovered and one is experiencing mild symptoms. To protect the health of our clients and the community, we instructed our impacted employees to remain quarantined at home, with pay, until they have been officially cleared by public health officials to return to work.

As we learn more about this challenging disease, we continue to implement new safety measures and work closely with our local partners to share best practices. Since early March, Home Instead Senior Care serving Janesville has:

- Provided CAREGivers with personal protective equipment – including gloves, face masks, face shields, booties and lab coats – and trained them on best practices for using this gear when working with clients.
- Instructed our nearly 50 CAREGivers to immediately report if they come into contact with an individual who is ill or has tested positive for COVID-19 or are experiencing any symptoms consistent with this virus.

- Updated infectious disease training for all CAREGivers and instructed them to ensure they are symptom-free before each shift.
- Reduced interactions between employees both in the office and in the field.
- Increased sanitization and cleaning activities.
- Administrative staff conducted additional cross training on key support functions and started working remotely to ensure critical safety and support services remain in operation.
- Suspended non-essential activities.

Home Instead has served the Janesville region for more than 15 years. The work that we do – caring for some of the most vulnerable members of our community – is essential. In a time when medical systems are overwhelmed, home care plays an essential role in the health care system: keeping seniors safe and healthy at home – and out of the hospital. We are proud to continue safely serving our clients and their families during this difficult time. We appreciate our partnership with the Rock County Public Health Department and are grateful for their work in supporting our business and the community. We will continue to work closely with the local and state health officials, as well as follow CDC guidelines, to mitigate risk for our clients, caregivers and the community.

#### Evansville Manor- Evansville

Evansville Manor a long-term care facility in Evansville, in close collaboration with the Rock County Public Health Department, would like to provide an update regarding COVID-19 and their facility.

For More Info: [Info@evansvillemanor.com](mailto:Info@evansvillemanor.com)

Erica Dalziel, Administrator of Evansville Manor, a long-term care facility in Evansville, today issued the following statement:

On April 23rd, we were notified that a resident at Evansville Manor was tested and later diagnosed with COVID-19 while out at the hospital. The resident is now receiving care in an isolation unit at another long-term care facility. We currently have no further COVID-19 cases at our facility.

We are continuing to monitor the situation and are following all CDC and State Department of Health Services guidelines for the care we are providing. We also are in regular contact with Public Health officials with the State of Wisconsin and Rock County Public Department of Health, and they have been very helpful and supportive. We appreciate the communication and the efforts of the Rock County Public Health Department staff for their efforts. We have informed our staff and the families of our residents about this development.

We have been following closely and adhering to changing CDC guidelines for infection control as it pertains to COVID-19 as well as return to work guidance for healthcare employees. All identified residents will be placed on isolation precautions to prevent further spread. All staff that test positive will be sent home until they are deemed safe to return to work per CDC guidelines.

We have followed recommendations by both the CDC & Center for Medicare & Medicaid Services (CMS), visitation has been restricted early on and currently suspended altogether per the CMS recommendations. All our staff have been and continue to utilize only the front entrance. Having one point of entry also helps to minimize the spread of the infection. Employees continue to be screened at the front door for symptoms and are monitored for hand sanitization and donning of masks prior to reporting to work in resident areas. Outside vendors have also been restricted to essential personnel only.

Resident safety is our top priority and we are continuing to do everything we can to ensure we stop the spread of COVID-19 within our facility, including staying in very close communication with local and state health officials to ensure we are taking all the appropriate steps. We feel extremely blessed to have an incredible fleet of caregivers who have jumped into action by providing the highest quality of care and safety.

We understand that this continues to be a difficult time for everyone, and we will continue to provide you with updates as they become available. As always please feel free to contact us if you have questions pertaining to the care of your loved one during this trying time. Thanks to everyone in our community for their support.

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