



SHEBOYGAN COUNTY

*Division of Public Health
Health and Human Services Department*

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
April 4th, 2020

Re: Sheboygan Government and Health Care Response to COVID19 Outbreak in Sunny Ridge Nursing and Rehabilitation Center

Beginning on Tuesday March 31, 2020, the Sheboygan County Division of Public Health received notification of 2 cases of confirmed COVID19 within Sunny Ridge Nursing and Rehabilitation Center. Within the week, as of Saturday April 4th, we now have 10 confirmed cases associated with this outbreak.

Sheboygan County Division of Public Health immediately began to partner with the WI State DHS to assist Sunny Ridge to coordinate the response. Public Health has also completed contact investigations to identify and follow-up with the staff and residents who had close contact with the confirmed cases.

Through the process of contact tracing, Public Health nursing staff evaluated all potential contacts to the confirmed cases within the facility for risk of exposure, symptom monitoring and dates of last exposure. After the initial set of contact tracing, Sunny Ridge staffing became extremely limited-- with over 30 of their staff needing to isolate or quarantine for a period of time. In addition to the emergent staffing issue, the facility also had immediate needs for Personal Protective Equipment (PPE).

Acting quickly, the Sheboygan County Division of Public Health, Sheboygan County Emergency Management and Sunny Ridge contacted the WI State Department of Health Services and WI Emergency Operations Center. After connection with these entities, a shipment of PPE that included gloves, surgical masks, n95 masks and gowns were sent from the State Emergency Operations Center before the PM shift on Thursday, April 2nd.

“We are so thankful for all of our staff working through this process” states Colinda Nappa, Sunny Ridge’s Administrator. “We have staff working such long, hard hours and we are so thankful for their dedication to the health and safety of our residents. Additionally, the community has shown such wonderful support of our facility in their donations.”

Sunny Ridge Nursing and Rehabilitation Center, in partnership with local Sheboygan County and City Government, made contact with local long term care facilities, hospice and home health agencies, and health care systems to request assistance with staffing. Multiple agencies have responded with willingness to provide staff to assist during this emergent time.

“We have always had a deep commitment to this community and to serving the residents who live here,” said Dave Graebner, President of Aurora Sheboygan Memorial Medical Center. “That’s why we are assigning some of our clinical team members to Sunny Ridge to offer assistance to some of the area’s most vulnerable patients. We are grateful to the team members who have offered to help.”

County and city leaders are also working diligently to assist. "It's rewarding to see our local health care partners step up and send their qualified medical staff to assist Sunny Ridge in caring for their residents during the Coronavirus outbreak at the nursing home", says Mayor Mike Vandersteen.

To expedite the stop of further spread, WI State DHS has prioritized a process to test the staff and residents of Sunny Ridge. In partnership with the National Guard, local public health, emergency management and our local health care systems-- on April 5th the testing process will begin for all staff and residents.

Sunny Ridge, local government, state and federal agencies and public health continue to diligently work together to protect the health and safety of all involved-- staff, residents, families and the community alike. "We are absolutely honored to have the support of local public health and all of the health care partners as we navigate these difficult times" remarks Nappa. "They have all rallied to support us, and we could not be more thankful for the continued partnership."

County Administrator Adam Payne emphasised how important it is for all Nursing Homes to make preparations. "What is happening at Sunny Ridge could occur at any Nursing Home, which is why it is so critical that every health care provider develop contingency plans and has adequate personal protection equipment for their staff," Payne said.

To assist other long term care facilities in our community to prepare for COVID-19 within their facilities, multiple guidance documents have been issued and endorsed by the Sheboygan County Division of Public Health for all long-term care facilities to ensure that they are following best practice related to COVID19 preparation and response. These include:

- April 2nd, 2020, the Sheboygan County Division of Public health issued guidance related to [Guidance for Residential Facilities and Partner Organizations Regarding Work with Confirmed Positive COVID19 Cases.](#)
- March 31th, 2020, the Sheboygan County Division of Public Health issued guidance related to [Limiting Staffing Agencies and Hospice Providers from Staffing More than One Long-Term Care Facility with the Same Personnel.](#)
- March 20th, 2020-- Wisconsin Department of Health Services [Important Guidance for Infection Prevention and Control of Coronavirus Disease](#)

"We truly appreciate the community response and collaboration of all involved. If there are RNs, CNAs or other caregivers in the community that could help, please contact Sunny Ridge or any Nursing Home in the community," said Payne.

If you are able to assist with nursing, CNA, LPN, housekeeping or other staffing needs for Sunny Ridge please contact them at 920-207-7026.

Sheboygan County is dedicated to keeping the community informed as we continue to know more information regarding this outbreak. Additional information regarding long term care facility guidance, daily community updates and comprehensive resources can be found at www.sheboygancounty.com Please monitor our website for continued updates.

Regarding concerns or questions for the Sunny Ridge facility, please call their hotline number at 920-946-1268. Please leave a message and they will return your call as soon as they are able.

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