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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
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COVID-19 Update: Mercy Home reports 13 residents, 9 employees, 1 death

EAGLE LAKE, Maine (Dec. 30, 2020) – Mercy Home Administrator Denise Raymond issued a COVID-19 update last evening that the deadly disease has taken a resident at the nursing home facility.

“It’s been hard on everyone,” said Raymond. “Our residents are like family; and to some of them, we are their ‘family.’ Most of them are elderly or otherwise vulnerable to this devastating virus. Our sympathies go out to the family.”

All measures to keep residents and employees as safe as possible continue at Mercy Home and Franciscan Home. For example, on Monday, St. John Valley Pharmacy hosted a COVID-19 vaccination clinic at Mercy Home. All 24 residents who had tested negative and who had signed consent forms received the vaccine. Residents that have active COVID-19 diagnosis were unable to receive the vaccine that day. In addition, a total of 54 employees and affiliated staff received the vaccine that day, approximately 74 percent.

Update as of 8:15 p.m. Tuesday:

- 13 residents and 9 employees are confirmed to have active COVID-19, an increase of 1 employee
- 16 suspected resident cases and 0 suspected staff cases are awaiting further lab confirmation
- 1 death
- Recoveries to date: 0 residents and 1 employee

Our mission is to provide individuals with the highest standard of care and help all of the people we serve enjoy life to the fullest potential.

In addition, weekly testing continues:

- Twenty-nine (29) COVID-19 swabs from residents who have not tested positive were sent to the lab yesterday. Those results are pending.
- Twenty (20) additional COVID-19 swabs from employees who have not tested positive were sent to the lab yesterday. Results for a total of 61 employee swabs are pending.

There has been no new cluster of three or more residential or staff members with onset of respiratory symptoms within 72 hours.

Communication with resident families and employees is ongoing.

“When a resident tests positive, we notify residents and their representative(s) of their condition and implement protocols for their care and treatment,” explained Raymond. “We also follow guidance from the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) and the Center for Medicare and Medicaid Services (CMS), including Return to Work Guidance for staff who test positive and need to isolate prior to returning to work.”

A leader in the community, Northern Maine General CEO Michelle Raymond encouraged everyone to continue doing their best and their part in combatting this disease. “Please keep your distance. Please wear your mask. Please wash your hands often. And please consider getting the vaccine when you can,” she said.

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Northern Maine General is a nonprofit social services organization serving Aroostook County, with business offices in Eagle Lake and Caribou. Founded in 1907, NMG provides long-term care, rehabilitation, home and community supports, behavioral health services, case management, and consultation services and resources. Contracted services include subsidized apartments.