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**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:**

## **Mercy Home reporting 13 residents and 8 employees with active COVID-19**

Nursing facility taking all precautions to prevent impact of community spread

**EAGLE LAKE, Maine (Dec. 28, 2020)** – Since the end of last week, Denise Raymond, Multi-Level Administrator for Mercy Home and Franciscan Home, has been providing residents of the nursing facility and their families with daily COVID-19 updates. Here is a look at part of the two-page update provided yesterday. The updates follow federal CDC reporting guidelines.

“We have 13 residents and 8 staff confirmed, active, cases of COVID-19; and we have two suspected resident cases of COVID-19, awaiting lab confirmation. One staff COVID-19 case has recovered ...

“(We have) one cluster of three or more residents/staff with new onset of respiratory symptoms within 72 hours of each other. The residents and staff currently test negative using an antigen test. (Those) staff have been excused from work, and are asked to follow the Return to Work Guidelines.”

“This is a difficult time for everyone,” Raymond acknowledged. “We will continue to provide you with updates. Please know that we are adhering to guidelines from the local and state health departments, which continue to evolve as we learn more about this virus.”

Mercy Home is following all guidance from the Centers for Disease Control and the Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services, such as

- Isolating confirmed COVID-19 residents to a separate unit,
- Designating specific staffers to work only on that unit to minimize any cross-contamination,
- Restricting confirmed COVID-19 staff from entering the facility for the extended period defined by CDC and CMS,
- Screening residents, staff, and essential providers for symptoms, and

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- Restricting visitation and entry of people into the building, etc.

Addressing incoming inquiries, she wrote, “Due to government privacy requirements, we cannot divulge specific information about the individuals who have confirmed or suspected COVID-19, unless they are your family member and you have the necessary permissions to receive such information.”

Family members are encouraged to connect with their loved ones. They may do so through a virtual visit, calling or texting. To coordinate a virtual visit, please contact the Mercy Home Clerk at 444-5152, Ext. 206, 8 a.m.-5 p.m., Monday through Friday.

Raymond made a plea to residents and family members to learn as much as they can about the relatively new disease in order to do their part in preventing further community spread, and recommends the CDC website: [www.cdc.gov/coronavirus](http://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus).

“Continued spread in the larger community increases the chance the virus will work its way into our building,” she wrote.

More information will be provided as it becomes available.

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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.*