



## MEDIA RELEASE

**DATE: APRIL 24, 2020**

**TIME: 2:00 PM**

### **Pre-testing shows asymptomatic Employee/ Residents Test Positive for COVID-19 at the Lodges**

As a result of the growing number of positive cases in the county, The Lodges of Durand pro-actively tested all residents and staff on Wednesday, April 22, 2020. Prior to testing, no residents or staff at The Lodges of Durand had displayed any symptoms of COVID-19.

After testing had been completed, one staff member and three residents tested positive. All were asymptomatic. There have been no deaths at The Lodges of Durand from the COVID-19 crisis.

The employee is self-isolating at home. The residents are being isolated in a specially prepared COVID-19 positive unit, which is separated from the other residents.

“While we are saddened by the discovery of those persons found positive of the virus, we are heartened by the fact that by pro-actively testing everyone, we caught the virus early enough so that we can treat those infected early on in their process, and saved many more from being infected,” stated Dean Solden, founder and co-owner of the Lodge.

“With growing testing capabilities in our community, we are able to help facilitate this type of pro-active testing with Memorial Healthcare for our long-term care facilities.” stated Health Director, Larry Johnson.

The Shiawassee County Health Department continues to work with healthcare partners, including long-term care facilities, during the current COVID-19 response. The Lodges is working closely with the Shiawassee County Health Department and Memorial Hospital while also following the Centers for Disease Control (CDC) Guidelines. Health Department staff will continue to monitor these individuals.

Staff members that have tested positive for COVID-19 will not be able to return to work until:

- At least three days (72 hours) have passed since recovery defined as resolution of fever without the use of fever-reducing medications and improvement in respiratory symptoms (e.g., cough, shortness of breath); and,
- At least seven days have passed since symptoms first appeared; and
- All symptoms have improved; and
- Been released by the Health Department from monitoring

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The Lodges in Durand has implemented the following strategies to protect their staff and residents from the spread of COVID-19:

- We have created an interdisciplinary coalition with the physicians, the facility, the health department and the local hospital to test, monitor and treat all staff and residents.
- We are currently taking temperatures on all residents and staff twice a day
- We are monitoring resident's respiratory status two times a day
- We have shut down all communal spaces and residents are quarantined to their rooms
- We have limited all non-essential visitors for over the last 5 weeks
- We have re-educated staff on the signs and symptoms of COVID-19 and how it is spread
- Staff members are wearing masks when they clock in

COVID-19 is present in our community, the Shiawassee County Health Department urges residents to continue social distancing by maintaining 6-foot separation from others and continuing to follow the Governor's Executive Order to Stay Home, Stay Safe. For COVID-19 related information please visit [health.shiawassee.net](http://health.shiawassee.net).

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