



COVID-19 (Coronavirus) Update: January 2021

Dear Friends & Neighbors,

As we celebrate the end of an extremely trying year and promise of the new, we at Heritage Community of Kalamazoo are making accelerated progress toward safeguarding our community for the benefit of everyone who lives and works here.

We recently completed our **first round of COVID-19 vaccinations for all residents and staff**. We are so excited to have reached this critical milestone that puts us very close to being fully-vaccinated environment—to once again enjoy the social freedom and comradery within our community that is the true heart and soul of living here.

As we eagerly await this fast-approaching reality, we want to share some information about our continued efforts for health and safety preparedness.

The health and safety of our residents and employees remains our top priority. Heritage Community of Kalamazoo continues to follow the recommended guidance from the Centers for Disease Prevention and Control (CDC), the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services (CMS), and the Michigan Department of Health and Human Services (MDHHS).

Our internal testing capabilities include 800+ rapid tests available on campus. We conduct **100% weekly testing of all staff** with our **healthcare staff tested twice each week**.

We are elated to report **no positive cases on campus** for the past several weeks. Our care team, led by Medical Director Dr. Nicoara Oprescu, is working with the Kalamazoo County Health and Community Services and the Michigan Department of Health and Human Services (MDHHS) to continually assess our protocols and offer guidance.

We continue to provide high-quality Personal Protective Equipment for our staff and we've embraced the best practices of our industry based on MDHHS and CDC guidelines for COVID-19. Additionally, we are working with the State of Michigan's Infection Prevention and Response Assessment Team (IPRAT) to ensure our protocols and practices are as effective as possible.

While our communal dining is currently closed and life enrichment activities minimized, we do offer indoor visits in “safe” areas with family. Independent living residents can host family members in their residences, for example.

The past months have been challenging for everyone—residents, families and staff. We thank and applaud all of our Heritage employees for their expert care and unwavering commitment to our residents. We appreciate the families who have entrusted us with their loved ones’ care and continue to encourage us. We are embracing our mission and will do everything possible to keep our residents safe and healthy.

Thank you for your support of Heritage Community and our high standards in care. Please do not hesitate to connect with us with any questions.

Sincerely,

Jay Prince

Jay Prince
President & CEO
Heritage Community of Kalamazoo