

For Immediate Release

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Date: July 17, 2020

OUTBREAK IDENTIFIED AT MEADOWLARK

MANHATTAN, KAN. – An outbreak has been identified within Meadowlark, a not-for-profit continuing care retirement community in Manhattan. As of July 17, 2020, a total of eight staff and residents have tested positive in one of the dementia care houses. Approximately 80 tests connected to this outbreak have been administered. All staff are screened daily; however, an asymptomatic employee has tested positive.

Meadowlark's main campus, located at the corner of Kimball Avenue and Tuttle Creek Boulevard, is home to over 330 residents and employs nearly 500 people. The organization continues to follow recommendations from the Kansas Department of Health and Environment (KDHE), the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC), the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services (CMS), and local health officials to ensure best practices.

“While the majority of cases in Riley County have fallen into the 18-24 age range, COVID-19 adversely impacts all ages,” said Andrew Adams, Public Health Emergency Preparedness Coordinator for Riley County Health Department. “A young person who does not feel sick or is not exhibiting symptoms may still be infected and can unknowingly spread COVID-19 to those at high risk. Meadowlark Hills has been, and continues to, take every precaution and measure to protect their staff and residents, and have acted quickly to investigate, test, trace and isolate individuals impacted by COVID-19. The health department has been in contact with Meadowlark Hills staff and are working together to respond to this outbreak. “

Meadowlark is dedicated to health and wellbeing of its healthcare professionals and older adults. “Our teams ask the public to support this important effort by taking care of themselves and following precautions,” said Lonnie Baker, CEO. “Meadowlark's greatest challenge has been and will continue to be asymptomatic spreaders of the novel coronavirus, which is a product of community spread.”