



## **COVID-19 (Coronavirus) Update: April 2021**

Dear Friends & Neighbors,

On March 20<sup>th</sup>, we celebrated the official first day of Spring. A welcome event that symbolizes new beginnings and progress, after what we all can agree was one of the most challenging years we have all faced. We at Heritage Community of Kalamazoo continue to make accelerated progress toward safeguarding our community for the benefit of everyone who lives and works here.

We are extremely excited to report no new cases within our community in over four weeks. In addition, the great **majority of residents and staff** have received the **COVID-19 vaccination**. Now, we can once again begin enjoying the social freedom and comradery within our community that is the true heart and soul of living here.

We are now welcoming visitors at Heritage Community, following our safety protocols of mask-wearing, temperature checks upon entering and social distancing as appropriate. Communal dining is now open, and more life enrichment activities continue to be reinstated.

### **Our Continued Health & Safety Measures**

The health and safety of our residents and employees remains our top priority. Though the majority of residents and staff have been vaccinated, 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 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.

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 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 have worked with the State of Michigan's Infection Prevention and Response Assessment Team (IPRAT) to ensure our protocols and practices are as effective as possible.

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