



MEDIA RELEASE

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Contact: Noelle Dickinson, marketing director, 316-283-5400 or ndickinson@pmma.org

UPDATE: Newton Presbyterian Manor achieves infection control survey excellence amidst COVID-19 outbreak

NEWTON, Kan. — Newton Presbyterian Manor earned a zero-deficiency survey for a focused infection control survey in the health care center on Dec. 8. The survey was conducted by the Kansas Department of Aging and Disability Services (KDADS) on behalf of the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services (CMS).

CMS routinely sends surveyors to skilled nursing centers during an outbreak to assess the facility's infection control practices. Newton Presbyterian Manor's prior survey was completed Nov. 17 with no deficiencies. The senior living community also had zero deficiencies during a focused infection control survey of the health care center in August and assisted living in July, making this the fourth zero deficiency survey in a row.

"A zero deficiency survey is always something to celebrate, because it is difficult to achieve," said Marc Kessinger, executive director. "To have four zero deficiency surveys in the middle of fighting this pandemic really affirms how hard this team has worked to keep our residents and each other safe every day. You can do everything right, and still the virus can find a way into your community. But you must continue to fight, no matter what. That's what we're doing at Newton Presbyterian Manor."

Senior living communities are surveyed annually by their licensing agency for compliance of regulations established by CMS. CMS licenses skilled nursing facilities. These regulations are designed to ensure a standard of care is met. By meeting these standards, senior living communities are able to renew their licenses and continue to provide care.

The focused infection control surveys hone in on a skilled nursing facility's adherence Centers for Disease Control (CDC) and CMS guidance for infection control practices to prevent disease at the community. Communities are assessed on staff and resident education on hand hygiene and coughing/sneezing etiquette, cleaning, screening of employees and residents, effective transmission-based precautions, proper use/discarding of personal protective equipment and signage at entrances and resident rooms. It also examines the facility's policies and emergency preparedness related to a pandemic or outbreak.

Newton Presbyterian Manor is a continuing care retirement community (CCRC), or life plan community, offering independent living, assisted living, memory care, long-term health care and short-term rehabilitation.

For more information about Newton Presbyterian Manor, contact Noelle Dickinson, marketing and sales director, at 316-283-5400 or ndickinson@pmma.org.

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Newton Presbyterian Manor has served Harvey County since 1949, now with independent and assisted living, long-term care, Alzheimer's care, short-term rehabilitation, onsite preschool and a public wellness center. Learn more at NewtonPresbyterianManor.org. Presbyterian Manors of Mid-America is a 501(c)(3) not-for-profit organization with 16 locations and 2 hospices in Kansas and Missouri. Learn more at PMMA.org.