

## Franciscan Ministries Takes Precautionary Measures in Response to the Coronavirus (COVID-19)

The health of our employees, residents and their families is our number one priority at Franciscan Ministries. As the coronavirus (COVID-19) becomes more widespread, we acknowledge the importance in addressing concerns and questions as well as communicate actions that our organization is actively taking. For current information visit [franciscanministries.org/coronavirus-response](https://franciscanministries.org/coronavirus-response)



FRANCISCAN  
MINISTRIES

*Sponsored by the Franciscan Sisters of Chicago*

1-800-524-6126  
11500 Theresa Drive  
Lemont, IL 60439

[franciscanministries.org](https://franciscanministries.org)



# The **FACTS** in Response to the Patch Article posted on 03/28/2020

## **REGARDING: Rehab Patient and COVID-19 Diagnosis**

MARCH 30, 2020

To Our Franciscan Village Associates:

There was much confusion and fear created by the article posted by the Lemont Patch which identified a resident of Independent Living or Assisted Living at Franciscan Village as having passed away from the virus. That is **NOT** true.

Mother Theresa Skilled Nursing and Rehabilitation Center had a short-term rehab patient who was admitted on 2/21/20 from the University of Chicago with orthopedic and significant wound needs.

On 3/2/20, this resident went out to their orthopedic and plastic surgeon for a regularly scheduled appointment. At that appointment, it was determined that the patient needed to be readmitted to the hospital for their wound issues. This patient stayed at the hospital from 3/2/20 until 3/18/20. The patient was readmitted to Mother Theresa Skilled Nursing and Rehabilitation on 3/18/20 back into their private room.

On 03/22/2020 this temporary rehab patient was sent back to the hospital due to having a fever. At no time did the patient exhibit any respiratory symptoms, have a cough or sneezing. This patient was in a private room. Because all communal activities had already been halted due to proactive prevention of spread, this resident had no contact with other residents. On 3/24/20 Franciscan Village was notified by the hospital that this patient tested positive for COVID-19.

Given the patient was out of the facility from 3/2/20 to 3/18/20, we do not believe the patient contracted the virus at the facility. In consultation with the local health department, we followed their guidance in terms of additional precautions/protection for staff and residents with a confirmed case having resided in the building. Their recommendations, at this time, are to continue monitoring all residents and staff in all levels of care. There is no recommendation to test anyone for the COVID-19 virus unless they would become symptomatic. Unfortunately, while the patient was re-hospitalized at University of Chicago, the patient passed away. We are unaware if this former patient passed due to the COVID-19 virus or her multiple pre-existing conditions.

At this time, a full 6 days post notification, we have no additional residents or staff members who are exhibiting any signs of infection currently, due to the excellent infection prevention of staff and the precautionary steps that we have continued to institute on a daily basis. **As of 03/30/2020, there are no cases of COVID-19 in any staff members or other residents.**

***If you should have any further questions you may reach out to your direct supervisor. Thank you for your dedication to our residents and the Ministry***

Sincerely,

*Kathy Kelly*

Kathy Kelly  
Vice President of Clinical Services  
Franciscan Ministries

