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Trinity Homes Implements Visitor Restrictions

(MINOT, ND)— As a precautionary measure against influenza and COVID-19 virus, Trinity Homes is implementing visitation restrictions, effective immediately.

Jennifer Mitchell, RN, CRRN, Director of Infection Control, says these precautions are in accordance with findings by the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC), which considered COVID-19's impact on the elderly, especially those with chronic diseases or dementia.

"There is a risk that people who might otherwise appear healthy will enter the nursing home and infect residents with the flu or COVID-19," Mitchell said. "Studies of past viral epidemics where preventive steps were delayed show that those actions were not as effective. The sooner we limit interactions, the better, which is why we're taking this action now."

The visitor restrictions are as follows:

- People should refrain from visiting residents unless absolutely necessary and with few exceptions.
- All visitors must use Door #1 (near the facility's office); other entrances will be unavailable to the public. Visits deemed **Necessary** will be limited to the hours of 8 a.m. to 5 p.m. Monday through Friday, and visitors will be required to use available hand sanitizer and then proceed to the unit's reception desk. At the reception desk, visitors must complete a screening process to determine how their visit may proceed.
- After 5 p.m. during the week, and at all time on weekends, access to the facility will only be possible through Door #1 via a buzzer system – staff will respond to the buzzer and will screen each visit request using the same screening process.

Mitchell said these restrictions will be in effect until further notice, and any modifications will be publicized. "The current influenza and COVID-19 outbreak demands that we take reasonable precautions to protect our residents, visitors and staff," she said.