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Methodist Senior Services Reports a Positive COVID-19 Case in Community

Tupelo, MS— (April 14, 2020)—Methodist Senior Services (MSS) wishes to inform the public that a resident has tested positive for COVID-19 in an assisted living facility located in Meridian, Mississippi.

“We have been made aware that a member of our community at Aldersgate Retirement Community in Meridian has reported a positive COVID-19 diagnoses,” stated Steve McAlilly, President/CEO of Methodist Senior Services. “The is elder has been isolated and is receiving appropriate medical care. We have notified public health officials as required and are following procedures recommended by the Centers for Disease Control & Prevention. We are taking every step as recommended by authorities to contain the spread. We want to make residents, their families, our dedicated staff, and our community aware of this situation and reassure everyone that we are on top of the situation.”

MSS elected early in the crisis to follow the more stringent mandated guidance for skilled nursing facilities and to apply that same guidance to all levels of care and housing on its twelve state-wide communities. This guidance from the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services does not allow visitors except for medical necessity and end-of-life situations. Those visitors must pass the screening protocol. Employees are screened before they begin their shift. In addition, staff are screening residents daily and closely monitoring their health.

“Protecting the health and well-being of our residents and employees remains our top priority. We continue to be on high alert and will take every precautionary step possible,” said Christie Vance, COO for MSS. “We are following proper infection control and emergency preparedness to ensure their safety and well-being. We are communicating all updates to our residents, family members and employees through a multitude of internal communication channels. We will be providing on-going updates via our webpage and social media channels for friends, media, and the greater community.”

Methodist Senior Services has a 58 year-old tradition of providing housing and services to older adults in Mississippi. It has one mission: to serve older adults in the spirit of Christian love. Our approximately 1,000 employees and 1,600 volunteers make that mission their prime focus. Today, MSS serves more than 1,700 elders in our 12 independent living, personal care/assisted living and skilled nursing care retirement communities, with campuses that range from almost the Tennessee line to the Gulf of Mexico. For more information concerning MSS or any of its facilities, visit www.mss.org.

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