



For Immediate Release:

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Vineyard Hills Health Center

COVID-19 Outbreak

[Grover Beach, CA – July 29th, 2020] - Compass Health, Inc. operates Vineyard Hills Health Center, a skilled nursing facility in Templeton, CA. The facility initiated response testing of all residents and staff during the week of July 13th after a previously hospitalized resident tested positive for COVID-19. The facility continues to maintain weekly response testing on all residents and staff. As of today, another round of routine weekly testing is underway for all residents and employees.

At this time, Vineyard Hills Health Center has received positive COVID-19 test results on 17 residents and 15 employees. With sadness and love for the families affected, the facility also reports that three residents have passed away in addition to the death that was reported on July 22nd. Our prayers and sympathy go out to their families and friends and continued support is being offered to employees and residents that are currently fighting off the effects of the virus.

Additionally, it bears reporting that two residents with declining respiratory status are on comfort care – one of which is at the facility and the other at the hospital. Of the remaining eleven positive residents, the most consistent and noticeable symptoms are wet coughs and fever. They remain stable under constant nursing observation in the facility's COVID-19 isolation unit.

Vineyard Hills Health Center continues to follow a mitigation plan approved by the California Department of Public Health. Dedicated staff work in the COVID-19 isolation unit. They exclusively enter/exit through a separate entrance as to minimize all potential additional exposure and are receiving additional compensation. The entire facility is operating under full PPE protocols and has more than adequate quantities. The facility Administrator and staff are in contact with all families and are providing daily updates to all parties facility-wide.

Regarding this developing situation, Sue Barse, RN, Compass Health's Corporate Director of Nursing said: "With the exponential spread of the virus in our county in recent weeks, the likelihood of the virus entering one of our facilities has increased accordingly."

Barse continued: "Our hearts break with families as their loved ones pass away, regardless of what complex health conditions they faced prior to COVID-19. I have worked side by side with the employees of the facility in the last two week and I am constantly impressed by the love and devotion that this team has for the senior citizens of our county. As we sit and hold hands and connect phone calls to loved ones in their final moments of life, our resolve as nurses and as residents of our county is strengthened to do whatever we can and to fight back against this virus. The safety of the most vulnerable residents of our community remain our top priority."

She concludes: “We plead with members of our community to take great caution in their everyday lives to do their part by limiting social activities, wearing face coverings and practicing strict handwashing and sanitation. From all of us, we appreciate your support, thoughts, love and prayers at this trying time.”

Compass Health, Inc. is a locally owned and operated company that is dedicated to providing the highest levels of care to our county’s seniors as we strive to uphold our motto of “people, caring for people... caring for people.”

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Questions relating to this situation can be directed to the Compass Health Inc. Hotline at (805) 474-7631 or to CEO Darren Smith, who can be reached at 805-235-9527.