



## **FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

### **Wilmette-Based Mather Place Confirms First Case of COVID-19**

**WILMETTE, IL (MARCH 30, 2020)** – Mather Place, an independent living residence in Wilmette, Illinois, received confirmation on March 29, 2020, that a resident has tested positive with the Coronavirus disease (COVID-19). The case was reported to Mather Place Wilmette by the family. The resident is receiving care at Evanston Hospital and taking guidance from their physician. This is the first known case of COVID-19 connected to the Wilmette-based Mather Place.

The resident, who cannot be identified due to the Health Insurance Portability and Accountability Act (HIPAA), was experiencing symptoms and taken to Evanston Hospital and tested there on March 28, 2020. All residents at Mather Place Wilmette have been in self-isolation since March 17 to minimize COVID-19 exposure and will continue to do so.

Upon receiving the report, Mather Place responded immediately to notify residents, family members, and employees, and is using a third-party national provider to deep clean and sanitize high touch areas and the resident's apartment home. Mather Place Wilmette has reported the case to the Illinois Department of Public Health.

"This is of course not the news any of us wanted to receive. Our hearts go out to our resident who is hospitalized with COVID-19 with our wishes for a full recovery. The health and wellbeing of residents and employees is our top priority," said Katrina O'Neill, Executive Director. "Mather Place Wilmette has taken proactive, decisive action to help prevent the spread of COVID-19."

An internal interdisciplinary task force on COVID-19 was initiated on February 28, and communication to residents regarding the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention guidelines started on March 3. The task force continues to meet daily, taking steps to ensure that the Community is prepared, including:

- restricting all visitors with the exception of essential health care professionals
- requesting all residents remain in their homes
- screening all employees and essential vendors and health care professionals
- canceling in-person activities and programs
- closing restaurants and amenity spaces
- asking employees to limit travel and avoid large groups

These measures have been implemented to keep Mather Place Wilmette as safe and healthy as possible. While it is hoped these actions mitigate the spread of the virus, Mather Place Wilmette leadership has continued to conscientiously plan and prepare to respond effectively to potential further threats.

As Cook County, and beyond, sees an escalation in cases of COVID-19, Mather Place Wilmette continues to encourage people to take steps to protect themselves and the older adults with

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which they may have contact. Mather Place Wilmette will continue to provide updates via email and letters to residents, family members, and employees. Right now, Mather Place Wilmette is focused on containing the spread of COVID-19 as well as supporting residents and employees.

### **About Mather Place Wilmette**

Mather Place is a boutique independent living rental residence for those 62 and better located in Wilmette, Illinois. Mather Place offers many onsite amenities and services, including restaurants, concierge, a movie theater, fitness center and indoor swimming pool, weekly housekeeping and linen services, wellness programs and exercise classes, an art studio and more. The North Shore location with its shuttles and car service, provides easy access to nearby Old Orchard Shopping Mall, theaters, and cultural and educational experiences. For more information about Mather Place, visit [www.matherplacewilmette.com](http://www.matherplacewilmette.com).

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### **Media Contact:**

Lori Keenan

Smarthinking PR

[Lori@SmarthinkingPR.com](mailto:Lori@SmarthinkingPR.com)

(847) 902.2905