



## News Release

September 17, 2021

CONTACT: Lisa Diehl, PMMA Communications Director, [ldiehl@pmma.org](mailto:ldiehl@pmma.org) or 316-685-1100

### **Heart and Soul Hospice reports employee tests positive for COVID-19**

FARMINGTON, Mo. – Heart & Soul Hospice of Farmington has learned that a direct patient care employee tested positive for COVID-19. Heart & Soul Hospice is a program of PMMA (Presbyterian Manors of Mid-America).

“The safety of our patients and employees remains our top priority,” said Jeanne Gerstenkorn, PMMA’s infection preventionist and vice president for health and wellness.

The employee’s last day of work was September 7. The individual screened in prior to their shift and wore personal protective equipment (PPE) while at work.

We have contacted the St. Francois County Health Department to report the positive case. We will follow any guidance we receive from the health department.

All employees are encouraged to follow CDC guidelines and best practices as these are continually updated. Because hospice employees visit patients where they live, they wear masks and gloves with each patient. The hospice regularly reinforces with all employees that an employee should not report to work if he or she is experiencing symptoms of a respiratory illness or not feeling well.

The employee will remain in isolation until cleared to work by the St. Francois County Health Department. We will follow CDC guidelines for when COVID-positive employees may return to work. Under the current guidelines, symptomatic employees may return to work when at least 24 hours have passed since resolution of the employee’s fever without the use of fever-reducing medications and the employee’s symptoms have improved and at least 10 days have passed since symptoms first appeared. Asymptomatic positive employees will quarantine for 14 days before returning to work. Upon the employee’s return to work, we will follow CDC recommendations related to work practices and restrictions.

Heart & Soul Hospice employees are included in the recent Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services (CMS) requirement for surveillance testing of employees who work regularly in skilled nursing facilities. Heart & Soul Hospice employees will be tested based on the positivity rate for COVID-19 in St. Francois County and any location where they are serving patients.

For more information about Heart & Soul Hospice of Farmington’s response, go to PMMA’s (Presbyterian Manors of Mid-America’s) website, [Presbyterianmanors.org/Media-room](https://www.presbyterianmanors.org/Media-room).

#