

NEWS RELEASE

AUGUST 19, 2020 | NR #081920048

MEDIA CONTACTS:

Mari Cockerell, Communications Director

Ph: 325.676.6677, Email: mari.cockerell@abilenetx.gov

Abilene Taylor County Health District receives notification of positive COVID-19 test results from area nursing home

Abilene, Texas – The Abilene Taylor County Public Health District has received notification of eighteen positive COVID-19 test results from residents of the Northern Oaks Living & Rehabilitation Center at 2722 Old Anson Road, and notification of one COVID-19 related death at the facility on August 18, 2020.

The deceased resident was a male in his 80s with pre-existing conditions. He is Taylor County's twenty-sixth COVID-19 related death.

Over the weekend, Northern Oaks staff reached out to the director of nursing at the Abilene Taylor County Public Health District to inform her of a COVID-19 positive staff member. Northern Oaks staff quickly assessed residents and staff to determine if anyone else was symptomatic, and began targeted testing of staff and residents. From that effort, five additional persons were found to be positive. At that point, the Abilene Taylor County Public Health District staff began to coordinate mass testing of the nursing facility, and all residents who had not yet been tested received antigen testing Tuesday, August 18. Out of fifty-five tests administered, a total of eighteen were found to be positive. Northern Oaks staff then worked to further isolate the COVID-19 positive patients into a separate part of the facility. All Northern Oaks staff will be tested to further assess the situation.

Northern Oaks administration reports the majority of the individuals who have tested positive for COVID-19 are asymptomatic and currently feel well.

The positive test results from the Northern Oaks facility should be fully integrated into the Health District's daily COVID-19 testing numbers report by Thursday, August 20.

The Abilene Taylor County Public Health District and its staff will work with Northern Oaks as requested to care for its residents and control the spread of COVID-19 within its facility and among its employees and staff.

###