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County of Berks / COVID-19 Leadership Team Press Release

First Berks Heim Resident to Die from COVID-19

Reading, PA— 4/18/2020 — The Berks County Commissioners offer their condolences to the family and friends of the first Berks Heim resident to die as a result of the COVID-19 virus.

Very sad to see this happen.

Berks County Commissioner Chair Christian Leinbach announced today that an 87-year-old female resident on the dementia unit, Essex Commons, who had displayed symptoms on April 16th and tested positive on April 17, 2020 passed away the same day. “The sad reality of this virus is that some people, primarily the elderly and those with underlying conditions will die.” Leinbach stated. “That truth doesn’t make the loss any easier for family or friends and our prayers are with the family of this lady.”

The Berks Heim continues to take precautions including monitoring of temperatures, symptoms, and following recommended guidelines to restrict access as necessary based on CDC (Centers for Disease Control), CMS (Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services) and the Pennsylvania Department of Health standards. All staff are wearing isolation/surgical masks. The Berks Heim continues to be closed to general visitors.

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