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**PRESS RELEASE**

For immediate release on May 17, 2020

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**Douglas County Health Center has no positive cases of COVID-19**

As of May 17, 2020, Douglas County Health Center officials confirmed 14 residents who previously tested positive for COVID-19 have fully recovered. Three residents remain hospitalized in stable condition. That means there are currently no active cases of COVID-19 at the Health Center.

“This is a relief and we are grateful to be on the road to recovery, but we are still seeing what’s happening with the number of positive cases outside the facility,” said Erin Nelson, administrator of the Douglas County Health Center. “Our goal is to stay COVID-19 free and our staff is on board to continue the fight. Our focus is to continue to support the residents and to maintain engagement with their families as the visitor ban continues for the facility.

Since March 29, 2020, the Health Center has had 37 positive COVID-19 cases in total – 23 long term care residents and 14 employees, including six residents who have passed away. Twelve of the employees have fully recovered and are back at work.

Douglas County Health Center has a 254-bed long term care facility that employs more than 350 staff in long term care.

The Health Center continues to follow CDC guidelines for daily screening, PPE use, disinfection and onsite testing.

Douglas County Commissioner Mary Ann Borgeson said she continues to be impressed with the leadership at the Health Center.

“It’s incredible to see our administration and staff keeping each other safe while also providing a high level of quality care,” Borgeson said. “Working during this COVID-19 pandemic is no easy feat, and all of our employees are doing it with pride.”

***(IMPORTANT NOTE: The last news release from the Health Center on April 25, 2020 announced four deaths. Two additional deaths from mid-April could not be announced at that time because officials were awaiting confirmation on cause of death. The two additional deaths were men with several comorbidities. Both have already been included in the numbers reported by the Douglas County Health Department.)***