Statement from Sunrise Senior Living Regarding the Presence of COVID-19 at Sunrise of Mercer Island

Attribute to Carla Sanchez, Regional Vice President of Operations, Sunrise Senior Living

Sunrise has been closely monitoring the global spread of COVID-19 (novel coronavirus) and coordinating with the Centers for Disease Control & Prevention and local health departments across the United States and Canada. We took immediate steps to reinforce and expand our infection control procedures when we became aware of our resident’s potential COVID-19 diagnosis. We have taken extensive precautions to prevent the spread of illness and support our residents and team members, including:

- Professionally deep cleaning the entire community.
- Asking residents to remain in their suites at this time, and delivering meals to residents’ rooms.
- Cancelling all community-wide activities and working with our teams to engage all of our residents in meaningful and purposeful activities in their suites.
- Providing opportunities to virtually socialize with loved ones via Skype and FaceTime.
- Prohibiting visitors at the community unless absolutely necessary to provide critical healthcare and services, and in certain situations such as end of life.

Sunrise has nearly 40 years of experience caring for seniors, and infection control is part of our everyday operations. While COVID-19 poses a grave concern, cold and flu season is a risk for seniors every year. Sunrise maintains a rigorous Infection Control and Prevention Program, which is regularly updated to reflect current CDC guidance. Out of an abundance of caution, we began implementing a number of measures weeks ago to help protect our team members and residents from COVID-19, including:

- Conducting resident health evaluations, including temperature checks and respiratory assessments multiple times a day.
- Instructing team members to stay home if sick or experiencing virus symptoms, and asking team members to self-quarantine in cases of possible exposure to infectious illness.
- Screening all team members and visitors for possible illness, recent travel to CDC-issued Level 2 and Level 3 countries (China, South Korea, Japan, Iran, and Italy), and potential exposure to the virus.
- Re-educating our team members and monitoring to ensure that community teams are following the standards in our evidence-based Infection Control and Prevention program, such as frequent handwashing, cleaning of high-touch surfaces, and other recommended hygiene measures.

Our team is working to maintain normalcy for our residents and families despite this situation. We want to thank our residents, families and team members for their understanding, cooperation and words of support in recent days. We appreciate the trust you place in us every day, and it is our honor and privilege to serve Seattle families.