



## EveryStep Hospice COVID-19 Unit Fact Sheet

EveryStep Hospice is dedicated to providing compassionate care to those with serious illnesses and their families, no matter their circumstances or health diagnosis.

This includes those who have been impacted by the current COVID-10 pandemic. As a result, EveryStep made the decision to bring its care and support to the frontlines of the pandemic, opening a dedicated COVID-19 hospice unit at our Bright Kavanagh Center in east Des Moines.

### EveryStep Hospice COVID-19 Unit Details

- EveryStep's dedicated COVID-19 unit is housed at the Bright Kavanagh Center, 3000 Easton Blvd. Des Moines.
- The six-room unit is located in the Glazer-Burt wing of the former hospice house.
- Each room is equipped with standard medical necessities including in-wall oxygen.
- Rooms include a private bathroom, television and guest seating.

### Patient Admissions

- The hospice admission process remains the same for all patients, whether positive for COVID-19 or not: contact your [local EveryStep Hospice team](#).
- All patients are screened at admission to determine if special cares and protections should go in place for treating COVID-19.
- Please contact EveryStep Hospice at 515-333-5800 for additional admission details or to determine if you or your loved one is ready for hospice care.

### Safety Precautions

EveryStep's top priority is the safety and health of its employees, those in our care and their family members. With that in mind, we have taken the following steps to ensure safety for all at the COVID-19 unit at Bright Kavanagh Center.

- A group of EveryStep staff have volunteered to serve the patients in the COVID-19 unit. They will be equipped with full personal protective equipment (PPE) and will follow CDC and IDPH guidelines related to the care of COVID-19 patients.

- The six-room unit is completely self-contained, which protects other areas of the building from spread of the virus. (At present, other areas of the building are only sparsely staffed, due to EveryStep's social distancing and work-from-home protocols.)
- All visitors will be screened at the front door when checking in and out. If a visitor is symptomatic (fever, cough, etc.) that person would not be allowed in the unit until after 14 days of self-isolation and/or they are symptom-free for 72 hours without use of medication. In the interim, the individual may connect with his/her loved one via telephone.
- Unit staff, patients and visitors will only enter the unit through a dedicated door at the building's northeast corner.
- The remainder of Bright Kavanagh Center will not be accessible to those staying, working or visiting the unit.
- Visitors to the wing will receive washable lab coats and barrier masks upon entrance to the unit.

### **Visitor Policy at Bright Kavanagh Center COVID-19 Unit**

EveryStep understands that the end-of-life is a delicate time for many families and we have allowed a visitor policy to ensure they are not alone during these difficult times.

- It is **preferable** that each patient only have **1 person** as their designated visitor. The maximum will be 2 designated visitors per patient per day.
- Visiting hours are 9 a.m. to 9 p.m. Exceptions may be made on a case-by-case basis. (For example, if a patient is actively dying)
- Visitors will be required to stay in the patient's room with mask and gown on at all times. Visitors will not be allowed in the hallways or other rooms unless exiting or entering the building.
- Visitors will utilize bathrooms in the patient rooms rather than public restrooms in the building.
- When exiting the building, visitors will first remove the gown and place it in the hamper at end of hall, followed by removal of the mask before exiting building. Immediately after exiting, visitors must use hand sanitizer gel at the sanitizing station outside the entrance.
- Once a visitor exits the facility for the day, they will not be allowed to return until the following day. This is due to limited personal protective equipment (PPE) available for visitors each day.

### **Why we're using Bright Kavanagh Center:**

EveryStep's Bright Kavanagh Center previously served as a full-time hospice house from 2008-2016. In spring 2016, we made the decision to serve all patients requiring 24/7 hospice house care at EveryStep's Kavanagh House on 56<sup>th</sup> Street.

However, we fully anticipated the time might come when we would need the Bright Kavanagh Center to once again house hospice patients. With that in mind, the building's patient rooms have not been structurally altered, and we have been able to quickly update one of our patient wings to prepare for hospice patients with COVID-19.