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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE: Area Residential Care to suspend activity due to Influenza and COVID-19  
Dubuque, Iowa – March 12, 2020 – Area Residential Care has announced the suspension of day and community program activities for the next two weeks to prevent the spread of Influenza and COVID-19. Area Residential Care residents will remain at home with staff. In addition to the suspension of day and community programming Area Residential Care is implementing an immediate no visitor policy at all residences. We are sorry and fully understand the impact on concerned family and friends, however safety is our highest priority. We will evaluate our next steps as more information becomes available.

“The health and safety of our consumers, staff and community is of the utmost importance to us at Area Residential Care. We will continue to take every recommended and necessary precaution to prevent the spread of any illness and feel confident in the measures we are currently taking,” said Sue Freeman, Executive Director. “Many of our consumers are in the high-risk population, which makes this a particularly urgent situation for us at this time.”

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#### **About Area Residential Care**

Area Residential Care is a non-profit that has provided services for people with intellectual disabilities since 1968. The organization has grown to serve an average of 250 people with disabilities annually, providing residential, vocational, and day services in Dubuque and Dyersville communities. For additional information, go to [www.areasidentialcare.org](http://www.areasidentialcare.org).