



**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

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### Heath Village Receives 2020 Antimicrobial Steward Award

**Washington Township, NJ** – Heath Village is proud to announce that it has been awarded with the New Jersey Department of Health 2020 Antimicrobial Steward Award.

This award follows the observance of Antibiotic Awareness Week, an annual recognition hosted by the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) during the month of November to raise awareness of the importance of appropriate antibiotic use to combat the threat of antibiotic resistance. Awards were announced in December.

The New Jersey Antimicrobial Stewardship Recognition Program (ASRP) is a voluntary, incentive one that encourages healthcare facilities to assess how well they are applying the CDC's *Core Elements of Antibiotic Stewardship*, a set of key principles to guide efforts to improve antibiotic use, advance patient safety and improve outcomes. The complexity of medical decision-making surrounding antibiotic use and the variability in facility size and types of care in U.S. healthcare settings require flexible programs and activities.

“On behalf of Heath Village, I wish to congratulate and thank our nursing staff for their commitment to taking the extra time and steps – especially during this incredibly difficult year - to ensure our residents and patients receive the appropriate treatment. It is because of their hard work that we are seeing healthier outcomes at our facility. Ensuring the proper use of antibiotics is difficult. It requires awareness and collaboration from our entire team. I cannot express what a privilege it is to work with such a highly skilled and dedicated group of

nurses and health care professionals,” said Chief Operating Officer Mary Ellen Bove upon learning of this recognition.

During COVID-19, antimicrobial stewardship programs are even more important, where improper treatment of COVID-19 with antimicrobials, reliance on telemedicine usage and lack of diagnostic information, and lack of prioritization for antimicrobial stewardship tenants during COVID-19 can exacerbate antimicrobial resistance in our hospitals and communities.

This year, the ASRP application evaluated metrics on hospital leadership commitment, accountability, pharmacy expertise, action, tracking, reporting, and education. This new award was modified in recognition of the challenges New Jersey’s healthcare facilities experienced during the COVID-19 pandemic. Although the application was stringent, there was an increase in applications from 76 in 2019 to 100 in 2020, and an increase in ASRP awardees in acute care facilities from 51 to 55. This demonstrates the steadfast devotion to establish and maintain effective antimicrobial stewardship programs which protect the patient population, New Jersey residents, and global citizens.

Heath Village is a full-service retirement community located at 430 Schooley’s Mountain Road in Washington Township, Morris County. For further information, please call 908-852-4801 or visit us on our website at [www.heathvillage.com](http://www.heathvillage.com). Like us on Facebook at [www.facebook.com/heathvillage](https://www.facebook.com/heathvillage).

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