

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:**

**Media Contact:**

Maryellen Mooney

212-576-2700

[Goodman.ArchCare@goodmanmedia.com](mailto:Goodman.ArchCare@goodmanmedia.com)

**ARCHCARE INVESTS OVER \$2 MILLION IN INFECTION PREVENTION AHEAD OF  
CRITICAL WINTER SEASON WITH SPECIALIZED STAFF, TECHNOLOGY**

**New York, NY, November 9, 2020** – [ArchCare](#), the Archdiocese of New York’s healthcare system that every day cares for more than 9,000 seniors, the poor and persons with special needs, has invested in an infection prevention program which includes state-of-the-art technology, a team of infection prevention professionals and a central command structure that will ensure the highest level of safety across its nursing home residences and programs this winter.

“We have significantly invested in technology, staff and training to position ourselves as the leader in infection control and prevention in the post-acute environment,” said Scott LaRue, President and Chief Executive Officer of ArchCare. “We’re laser-focused on ensuring that those we serve are safe as we prepare for the ‘second wave’ of COVID-19, paired with this year’s flu season.”

Led by Dr. Walid Michelen, SVP Clinical Planning & Innovation, Chief Medical Officer, ArchCare’s PROTECT (Program to Eliminate Contagion at ArchCare) program is underway across the system. PROTECT combines centralization, communication and coordination with upgrades to facility environments, tailored safety training for staff members at all levels of the system and testing and contact tracing to proactively prepare ArchCare for any future infectious disease outbreaks, including COVID-19 and influenza.

Core to its focus on infection prevention, ArchCare has deployed a number of state-of-the-art tools throughout the ArchCare system. Highlights include:

1. Ultraviolet filters in main vents across the system, constantly disinfecting the air, paired with an ultraviolet-C disinfection device that allows ArchCare to boost disinfection in high-risk areas.
2. Thermal scan cameras at each entrance of every ArchCare facility. They more accurately read temperatures and alert staff for possible fever. They will also identify those not wearing masks.
3. Negative pressure rooms with high efficiency particulate air (HEPA) filters, to isolate infected patients.
4. Bedside dialysis machines, keeping patients safe at home and away from potential virus transmission at a dialysis center.
5. An easy-to-use communication tool, accessible with internet access and a smart TV. It allows participants to be connected remotely with their wellness centers for monitoring, medication reminders and programs. With it, staff is able to monitor the participant’s home, combat social isolation and connect patients with rehabilitation and therapists.

Additionally, the system's store of personal protective equipment (PPE) will safeguard ArchCare's vast team of clinical and care members.

"With our infrastructure, tools and central- and facility-level, specialized roles in place, we are ready to manage more complex cases with increased communication," said Dr. Michelen. "We'll be monitoring staff and residents constantly for any contagion and have plans ready in case the infection rate grows. In the meantime, we have activated our infection prevention protocols and reinforced a culture of safety and communication to keep ArchCare residents, home-care clients, their families and loved ones, as well as staff members, safe."

### **About ArchCare**

ArchCare is the Continuing Care Community of the Archdiocese of New York, and one of the nation's largest and most dynamic Catholic healthcare systems. ArchCare provides quality care to thousands of people of all faiths through its home and community-based and residential care programs, including health plans and nursing home alternatives, adult day care, long-term skilled nursing care, short-term rehabilitation, home care, assisted living, hospice, an acute care specialty hospital and services for people with Huntington's disease, HIV/AIDS, developmental disabilities and other specialized care needs.

# # #