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CHAIRMAN'S PRESS RELEASE

GRAND AT BARNWELL EXPERIENCING VIRUS OUTBREAK

Columbia County Board of Supervisors Chairman Matt Murell said today that the Columbia County Department of Health is reporting a significant outbreak of COVID-19 cases at The Grand Rehabilitation & Nursing/Barnwell facility in Valatie.

As of Wednesday, January 11, 95 residents and 37 staff had tested positive for the virus, according to information provided by the home.

County Public Health Director Jack Mabb said the earlier cases among staff go back to January 1, suggesting the virus may have been introduced into the home by a worker. The earlier cases among residents occurred on January 3.

"Looking at the date of testing for residents and staff, you can see that this outbreak was pretty contained early on but just exploded among residents in the last few days," said Director Mabb. He added that congregate facilities, such as nursing homes, are perfect places for this kind of rapid spread.

Of the 95 positive residents, 14 are unvaccinated, having refused the vaccine, said Mabb. As of today, three residents are hospitalized, with two out of the three unvaccinated. None are currently in intensive care.

ADVISORY: Please note that the numbers distributed in Board of Supervisors Chairman Matt Murell's coronavirus press releases are morning results provided to the county Department of Health via the state reporting system. Updated numbers are issued again by the state in the afternoon, ordinarily past the time this press release is distributed. Consequently, there may be discrepancies in the numbers that appear here versus the final daily numbers shown on the DOH website and elsewhere.