



Department of Health

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Executive Deputy Commissioner

April 21, 2020

Coronavirus (COVID-19) Update

Dear Resident / Representative:

This letter is intended to update you on our ongoing efforts to stop the spread of the coronavirus, COVID-19. We are taking every opportunity to test residents since testing has become more available. Since our last letter, eight more residents have been tested for COVID-19. While six residents were negative for the virus, two residents from the Pine Neighborhood tested positive. These residents are being treated at the Veterans Home. We continue to use the left wing of the Pine Neighborhood for COVID-19 positive residents. It saddens me to report that two residents with the virus have passed away. On behalf of myself and the entire staff of the Veterans Home, our condolences go out to their families.

The Veterans Home staff continue to aggressively treat and care for those residents with the virus. As residents recover and no longer exhibit symptoms, the resident will remain in isolation for an additional 14 days, per Department of Health protocols.

The Veterans Home's strict infection control policies and adherence to guidelines for the usage of personal protective equipment (PPE) are monitored and enforced to help control the spread of the virus. All staff are wearing eye shields with their medical grade face masks when within 6 feet of a resident. We are also actively encouraging residents to wear face masks when being cared for and whenever they must leave their rooms.

Social distancing practices during mealtimes have been modified. The dining rooms have arranged seating so that everyone is at least 10 feet apart from one another. In addition, a resident room service meal program has been initiated to accommodate residents who wish to dine in their room.

I have been meeting with the Resident Council President daily via video chat. We are working on ways to keep residents informed and to provide positive encouragement to all during this difficult time.

Recreation Therapy and Social Work staff continue to provide lots of socialization and the use of iPads for video chatting.

If you have any questions, please let us know.

Sincerely,

Kurt D. Apthorpe

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