



## Department of Health

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Executive Deputy Commissioner

April 30, 2020

### **Coronavirus (COVID-19) Update**

Dear Resident / Representative:

On behalf of the Veterans Home and the staff, we are thinking of you and your families as we all cope with the coronavirus (COVID-19) pandemic.

This letter is to provide you with an update on the status of the Veterans Home's efforts to prevent the spread of the coronavirus. The nursing and medical staff continues to aggressively test and monitor all residents. As of today, twenty-five residents have tested negative for the virus, while fourteen residents have been tested positive. Some residents have been tested multiple times. Currently, twelve residents who have tested positive for the virus have been kept on the Pine Neighborhood in their own private rooms. We are monitoring closely those affected by the virus and remain cautiously optimistic.

We remain vigilant in our efforts to stop the spread of the virus and are thankful that it has been over 14 days since a resident tested positive on the Maple Neighborhood. We continue to monitor all residents throughout the facility.

The virus symptoms do not present themselves the same for each resident. Therefore, it is important to keep testing in order to know who has the virus. At least once every morning (and usually many times a day), the Infection Control Team meets to review the status of the residents, reviews any new federal and state guidance, evaluates the Home's current action plan, makes necessary changes, and then communicates this with all staff.

If a resident has a positive test result or a resident with the virus dies, we notify the resident's family immediately and we also post a notice to our website ([www.nysvets.org](http://www.nysvets.org)). You may not be following the website closely, so we are trying to come up with additional methods of notification. We are in the process of building an email listserv, and we are also piloting a text message/phone message application. We will let you know when we start using these, but please monitor our website daily for additional updates.

In the meantime, we continue to conduct many activities and fun events. The weekly resident newsletter, *ECHO*, continues to be published. The upcoming Resident Council meeting in May will be held as a virtual meeting using iPads and the Closed-Circuit TV. We welcome your input and active participation in our efforts to communicate with you and your family.

If you have any questions, please let us know.

Sincerely,

*Kurt D. Apthorpe*

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