



Department of Health

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Commissioner

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Executive Deputy Commissioner

May 15, 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. Last week we tested all residents with the assistance of nurses from the Department of Health. The testing has resulted in four new positive cases all from the Maple Neighborhood. The residents have been moved to the Pine Neighborhood for close monitoring by a team of clinical staff dedicated to the unit. A total of twenty residents have tested positive since testing started along with one resident who was presumed to be positive. We are monitoring closely those affected by the virus and continue to maintain strict infection control procedures to stop the spread of the virus.

Further, the Governor has issued an Executive Order which requires all nursing home staff to be tested regularly for the virus. The Veterans Home had initiated testing this past week and will continue to routine staff testing. Since testing began, we have had six employees test positive, and three have since recovered and have returned to work.

Our email listserv is up and running. If a resident has a positive test result or a resident with the virus dies, or if a group of three or more residents or staff with new onset of respiratory symptoms occurs within 72 hours of each other, we will notify the resident's family immediately and we will also send a notice to everyone else by listserv. We will continue to post the notice on our website as well. Resident representatives will also receive a text message/phone message that will also update you. Residents will continue to receive hand-delivered notices and are also invited to sign up for the listserv.

Finally, an Infection Control inspection was conducted last week by the Department of Health. A team of inspectors examined infection control practices and found no deficiencies. This means we are doing what we are supposed to be doing, which is very encouraging. We continue to maintain all mitigation efforts that have been put in place at this time.

If you have any questions, please let us know.

Sincerely,

Kurt D. Apthorpe

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