



## Department of Health

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Commissioner

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Executive Deputy Commissioner

June 5, 2020

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

Dear Resident / Representative:

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. A total of twenty residents have tested positive since testing started along with one resident who was presumed to be positive. We are pleased to report that we now have 14 residents who have recovered from the virus! We continue to cohort residents with COVID-19 on the Pine Neighborhood, monitor everyone closely and maintain strict infection control procedures to stop the spread of the virus.

I also want to remind everyone that the Governor issued an Executive Order which requires all nursing home staff to be tested regularly for the virus. The Veterans Home is conducting regular, routine staff testing weekly. Since testing began, we have completed over 1,000 tests, with nine employees testing positive, and five have since recovered and returned to work.

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 have also been receiving a text/telephone voice message that updates you. We apologize for the phone messages that are not always clear and is not easy to understand as well as the text messages. We are making all efforts to improve this process. If there is any question about them, please call us. Residents will continue to receive hand-delivered notices and are also invited to sign up for the listserv.

We feel that our efforts are paying off and look forward to everyone recovering soon. While allowing visitors back may still be some time away, we look forward to the time when we can see all of you and your friendly faces again!

If you have any questions, please let us know.

Sincerely,

*Kurt D. Apthorpe*

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