



Department of Health

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Executive Deputy Commissioner

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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 only have 3 remaining residents with COVID-19 and they are staying on the Pine Neighborhood. We have assigned dedicated staff to care for and monitor them closely. In addition, we continue to maintain strict infection control procedures throughout the entire facility to stop the spread of the virus.

Since the Governor issued an Executive Order which requires all nursing home staff to be tested regularly for the virus, we conduct regular, routine staff testing weekly. As of today, eleven employees have either tested positive or presumptive positive, and all but four have since recovered and returned to work.

If a resident or an employee 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 continue to notify the resident's family immediately and also send a notice to everyone else by listserv. We will continue to post the notice on our website as well.

Resident representatives and anyone who requests this service will also receive a text/telephone voice message that updates you. If there are any questions about the messages, please call us. Residents will continue to receive hand-delivered notices and are also invited to sign up for the listserv.

Whenever a resident or employee tests positive, we will have to put more precautions in place. These precautions include having residents remain in their room, including when they eat their meals. If a resident needs assistance with their meal, they may be brought to the dining room, but will be placed physically distant from others (more than 10 feet). These precautions will remain in place at least 14 days or possibly after every exposed resident has a negative test.

We continue our efforts and believe they are paying off. We have also started meeting with a team of staff and Resident Council officers to plan for re-opening. We look forward to the time when we can welcome family, friends, and visitors back again!

If you have any questions, please let us know.

Sincerely,

Kurt D. Apthorpe

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