



Department of Health

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Commissioner

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Executive Deputy Commissioner

July 3, 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 continue to grapple 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 virus. The safety and wellbeing of all residents is our top priority. We continue to receive regular guidance from federal and state government agencies and the departments that oversee nursing home care and services. The Infection Prevention and Control Committee meets regularly to review all new guidance and follow recommendations accordingly. The full-time Infection Control nurse is also monitoring our efforts and working closely with the county, regional, and state health department contacts.

We are pleased to report that we currently do not have any COVID positive residents in-house; all our residents have tested COVID-19 negative. Since the pandemic started, ninety of our residents have tested COVID-19 positive or presumed positive. While many residents have recovered, unfortunately forty-five residents have died some in the Veterans Home and others in the hospital. We mourn their deaths while continuing to acknowledge the difficulty in honoring them with all the limitations and restrictions in place. A Celebration of Life recognizing your loved ones, our heroes, will be planned for some time after the pandemic ends. The extended Veterans Home family will be invited for this very special recognition.

On the staff front, 102 staff members have tested positive or presumptive positive for the novel coronavirus including one death. While most staff were asymptomatic, almost all staff who did have symptoms consistent with the virus have recovered and returned to work. As per Governor Cuomo's executive order and directives, all staff are tested weekly and we closely monitor the results as they come in. Due to the continued potential for exposure to the virus, and our vigilance to continue keeping the virus from the facility, staff continue to wear personal protective equipment (PPE), such as face shields, goggles, gowns, surgical masks or N-95 respirator masks, at all times while on the units.

We are awaiting guidance on re-opening and will let everyone know when opening is permitted. We will provide information and updates during the weekly Zoom meetings.

The window visit program has brought happiness to many of our residents and families, and we will continue to encourage families to visit and see their loved ones. Please call ahead and schedule a visit. Terri Graig may be reached at (914) 788- 6144, and Elder Jesse Martin may also be reached at (914) 788-6180. They will help you schedule a visit with your loved one.

Many changes in operation have been brought about by the pandemic. If you are unable to reach staff on the units, please call the Nursing Supervisor at (914) 987-9056 or (914) 987-9057.

On this Independence Day weekend, the staff of the Veterans Home wish you and your families the many joys and freedoms that our veteran residents so honorably fought to maintain. We are honored to care for your loved one.

Please reach out to us if you have any questions.

Sincerely,

Nancy Baa-Danso

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