



Department of Health

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Executive Deputy Commissioner

July 24, 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. 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 at least once daily to review all new guidance and take action accordingly. The full-time Infection Control nurse is also monitoring our efforts and working closely with the county, regional, and state health department contacts.

A total of twenty-one residents have tested positive since testing started along with one resident who was presumed to be positive. We continue to test all residents with symptoms or if a resident must test prior to a hospital appointment/procedure.

Since the last update, we have had one new employee positive case. Twenty-one employees have tested positive or presumptive positive since testing became readily available. Staff are tested weekly.

The Apple and Pine Neighborhoods are under quarantine while the remaining Neighborhood residents are encouraged to stay in their rooms or wear a mask while on their neighborhood.

The Resident Council President continues to provide weekly updates for residents on the Home's closed-circuit television (CCTV) channel at 1:30 pm on Wednesdays and Fridays. We will be holding another meeting in the near future for family members to join in a video chat with the Administrator, Medical Director and other key staff. All family members will be invited.

If you have any questions, especially about the guidance, please let us know.

Sincerely,

Kurt D. Apthorpe

Kurt D. Apthorpe, MBA, CNHA, LNHA
Administrator

NYS Veterans' Home

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