



## Department of Health

**ANDREW M. CUOMO**  
Governor

**HOWARD A. ZUCKER, M.D., J.D.**  
Commissioner

**LISA J. PINO, M.A., J.D.**  
Executive Deputy Commissioner

August 7, 2020

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

Dear Resident / Representative:

We hope this letter finds you well, and able to enjoy the summer. The Veterans Home continues to fight the Coronavirus. The safety and wellbeing of your loved one is our top priority, so we are closely monitoring each and every resident while we plan to reopen for visitors.

Facility management and the Infection Control Preventionist continue to work closely with our county, regional, state and federal authorities to keep the virus out of the facility. In our efforts to prevent the spread of the coronavirus, we adhere to strict infection control procedures and use personal protective equipment (PPE). Staff procedures and use of PPE are closely monitored by the clinical teams to ensure compliance. Further, we continue to have enough PPEs to meet the needs of our residents.

Currently, the Veterans Home does not have any COVID-19 positive residents in-house. As needed, we continue to test residents with symptoms or if a resident must test prior to a hospital appointment or procedure.

All staff of the Veterans Home, in accordance with Governor Cuomo's Executive Order, are tested for the novel coronavirus once a week. The facility and staff have strictly followed this directive, and as a result, we have identified 107 staff members who have tested positive or presumptive positive for the virus. Almost all of the staff have had no signs or symptoms consistent with the virus, and almost all have returned to work.

The Veterans Home is making progress in meeting the state and federal criteria for opening up for face-to-face visits which will require social distancing, a face covering and hand sanitizing. In the meantime, we strongly encourage our residents and families to continue to communicate via virtual methods such as FaceTime, and on-site with a window visit. The smiles we see after each window visit is uplifting.

Please join us in our weekly Zoom meetings which occur every Wednesday at 12:00 pm. To schedule a window visit with your loved one or participate in the Zoom meeting, please contact Terri Graig and Elder Jesse Martin at (914) 788-6144 and (914) 788-6180, respectively.

The Nursing Supervisors are available to provide information about your loved one in the event you cannot reach unit staff. They can be reached at (914) 987-9056 or (914) 987-9057.

I am warmed by your continued support of the Veterans Home, the staff and more importantly, your loved one. We shall soon move forward together.

Very sincerely yours,

*Nancy Baa-Danso*

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