



Department of Health

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Executive Deputy Commissioner

October 30, 2020

Coronavirus (COVID-19) Update

Dear Resident / Representative / Family Members:

This letter is to provide an update on the status of the Veterans Home's efforts to prevent the spread of the Coronavirus (COVID-19). The safety and wellbeing of all residents is our top priority and concern. The Home's leadership and the Infection Prevention and Control (IPC) Committee, continues to meet as necessary to review and act on guidance from the federal and state government, and work closely with our health department contacts to ensure compliance.

Notification will be made if a new positive test for either residents or staff occurs. This is in accordance with Executive Order 202.18 and CMS Guidance QSO-20-29-NH. The Veterans Home will post this information as needed on our website, www.nysvets.org. The memo will include the number of new resident/staff COVID-19 positive tests, resident COVID-19 related expirations and any clusters of new on-set of respiratory symptoms for the last 24-hour period.

There have been no new positive or presumed positive resident or employee COVID-19 cases. The last case of a new positive resident was on June 21, 2020. This is evidence that our mitigation steps have been successful. A total of 91 residents have tested positive since testing started. We continue to test residents weekly. However, we will begin testing biweekly on November 2, 2020. We monitor all residents twice per shift for symptoms related to COVID-19.

Ninety-nine employees have tested positive or presumptive positive since testing became readily available. Weekly testing of staff continues until further notice.

Inside visits are now being held in the Multi-Purpose Room (MPR), and window visits are also available. Please call Social Work at (718) 990-0439 at least 48 hours in advance to arrange a visit. Video chatting continues to be available, please speak with the Recreation staff about setting this up for you.

We will continue to fight this pandemic and provide you with the latest information. Many of you have called us and we are happy to respond, always providing the latest information.

Please know that we are thinking of you and your family and hope that you remain safe in your homes.

Cordially,

Neville A. Goldson

Neville A. Goldson, LNHA

Administrator

NYS Veterans Home at St. Albans

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