



Department of Health

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Executive Deputy Commissioner

November 6, 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 guidance from federal and state government agencies and the departments that oversee nursing homes. The Infection Prevention and Control Committee continues to meet as necessary to review new guidance and working closely with the county, regional, and state health department contacts.

There have been no new resident positive cases this past week. A total of twenty-one residents have tested positive since testing started along with one resident who was presumed to be positive. We are currently conducting facility-wide resident tests every 3-7 days until there are 14 consecutive days of no positive employee or resident test results. We will also continue to test all residents with symptoms or if a resident must test prior to a hospital appointment/procedure.

Thirty-one employees have tested positive or presumptive positive since testing became readily available. Staff are also being tested every 3-7 days until there are 14 consecutive days of no positive employee or resident test results.

All neighborhoods on a higher level of precautions due to the potential contact with employees who tested positive. These precautionary measures include requiring residents to remain in their rooms with their door closed whenever possible. The higher level quarantine for all neighborhoods is scheduled through November 12th.

Based on the recent positive tests and exposures, the next possible start date for "Auditorium visits" for everyone will be November 17th. Window visits are allowed now, so please speak with Recreation Therapy (RT) staff about setting up a window visit.

Please let us know if you have any questions.

Stay well,

Kurt D. Apthorpe

Kurt D. Apthorpe, MBA, CNHA, LNHA
Administrator

NYS Veterans' Home

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