



Department of Health

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Executive Deputy Commissioner

November 13, 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. Facility-wide resident testing ended this week and today marks 14 consecutive days of no positive employee or resident tests. We will 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 will resume weekly testing as part of our ongoing surveillance program. Test results have been coming back within two days.

The higher-level quarantine for all neighborhoods ended today, and residents are still required to remain on their neighborhoods. Communal dining is still not allowed and group activities are also limited.

The next possible start date for "Auditorium visits" for everyone will be November 17th. Please contact Social Work at least 24 hours in advance to arrange for this visit. Window visits are allowed now, so please speak with the 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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