



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

November 19, 2020

Coronavirus (COVID-19) Update

Dear Resident / Representative:

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. The Infection Prevention and Control Committee continues to meet as necessary to review and act on guidance from the federal and state governments and work closely with health department contacts.

Currently, there are no COVID-19 positive residents in the facility. A total of three residents have tested positive since testing started. We are currently conducting facility-wide resident testing every 3-7 days until there are 14 consecutive days of no positive resident or employee test results. Residents with symptoms will continue to be tested for the coronavirus, as well as those residents who must be tested prior to a hospital appointment or procedure.

An employee has tested positive for the virus. Twenty-six (26) employees have now tested positive since testing became readily available. Due to this new positive test result, and in accordance with state and federal requirements, staff are being tested at least every 7 days, similar to residents.

Accordingly, the residential units are on quarantine with a higher level of precautions. These precautionary measures include requiring residents to remain on the unit, and in their rooms whenever possible.

Any positive case of a resident or employee requires the immediate halt of visits, including face-to-face visits. We hope that you know that the state and federal requirements were put in place to protect your loved one from the risk of exposure to and contracting the virus.

Based on the recent positive test and exposure and barring any further positive COVID-19 test results, the next possible start date for visitations will be December 7th.

We encourage you to communicate with your loved one via virtual methods such as FaceTime. Please call ahead and speak with the Social Work staff at (585) 345-2051. All visits must be confirmed by the staff prior to visitation. We sincerely apologize for the delay and inconvenience.

Please reach out to us if you have any questions.

Sincerely,

Nicole M. Gallagher

Nicole M. Gallagher, LNHA
Administrator | Western NYS Veterans Home
220 Richmond Avenue | Batavia, NY 14020