



Department of Health

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November 19, 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.

We are now monitoring the availability of vaccinations and how the vaccine will be distributed to us. As we get definitive answers, we will share them with you.

There has been some concern about the rise in cases nationwide and how this may impact the Home. One step we are taking is to use the Pine Observation Area to quarantine a resident returning from an overnight hospital stay unless it is clear that there is a low risk of spreading the virus if returned directly to their room.

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 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 test weekly as part of our ongoing surveillance program.

Residents are required to remain on their neighborhoods, however residents are able to participate in "Auditorium visits." Please contact Social Work at least 24 hours in advance to schedule a visit. All visitors are required to have a negative COVID-19 test prior to visiting. 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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