



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 25, 2020

Coronavirus (COVID-19) Update

Dear Resident / Representative:

As we prepare for the Thanksgiving holiday, we want to update you 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. The Infection Prevention and Control Committee continues to meet as necessary to review new guidance and work closely with the county, regional, and state health department contacts.

Once again, we are thankful that there are no COVID-19 positive residents in the facility. A total of ninety-two 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.

Since our last letter, two employees have tested positive for the virus. One hundred twenty-eight (128) employees have now tested positive since testing became readily available. We continue to test staff at least every 7 days, similar to residents, in accordance with state and federal requirements.

Any positive case of a resident or employee requires the immediate halt of visits, including face-to-face visits. We are hopeful that face-to-face visits will resume before mid-December barring any new positive COVID-19 test results. As we get closer to the date for resuming face-to-face visits, you will be notified in writing as posted to the website and during the weekly Zoom meeting.

We understand that for many of us, the Thanksgiving holiday will feel different; however, for our residents it won't taste different! The Home's chef and the kitchen team are preparing a traditional meal which will include turkey, dressing, candied yams, green bean casserole as well as cranberry sauce, followed with pumpkin pie. For those residents who don't enjoy turkey, alternatives are available. We hope your loved one will enjoy their choices on Thursday and we hope that your holiday is safe as well.

We encourage you to communicate with your loved one via virtual methods such as FaceTime. Please call ahead and speak with the Recreation Department at (914) 788-6175 / 6056. All visits must be confirmed by the staff prior to visitation.

Lastly, as Thanksgiving is now upon us, we want to thank our residents for the opportunity to serve and care for you, and we also thank you, our resident families and representatives, for allowing us the privilege to serve your loved one. It is a duty and honor that we hold sacred and dear.

Wishing you good health and a Happy Thanksgiving.

Sincerely,

Nancy Baa-Danso

Nancy Baa-Danso, RN, BSN, MPH, LNHA
Administrator | NYS Veterans Home at Montrose