



## 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

December 4, 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.

A total of twenty-four residents have tested positive since testing started along with one resident who was presumed to be positive. Thirty-six employees have tested positive or presumptive positive since testing became readily available. Since new positive cases were reported on December 4<sup>th</sup>, testing of all residents and staff will continue at least every 3-7 days until 14 days from the last positive test result.

The new positive tests have also resulted in the postponement of auditorium visits until further notice. We have also had to increase the precautions on every Neighborhood, requiring residents to remain in their rooms, and asking residents to wear a mask when interacting with staff. Residents with COVID-19 will be moved to the quarantine area on Pine.

There are new rules for furloughs that now require residents to obtain a negative virus test before being allowed to return to the Home, regardless of how long residents plan to be out of the building. The Social Workers will explain this upon request.

Window and virtual (Facetime, Duo, etc.) visits continue but must be done from the resident's room during this current upgraded quarantine situation. We have many requests for these visits and often plan for them to be held back-to-back, so please arrive at the appointed time for your visit.

A Zoom call is scheduled for Thursday, December 10<sup>th</sup> at 2:30pm to provide an update on the pandemic, the Home's testing and infection prevention plan, and the vaccination plan. Members of the Infection Control and Prevention Committee will also be attending to answer questions. An invitation will be sent to everyone on the listserv. If you would like to participate, please contact your Social Worker and we will also send you an invitation.

Stay well,

*Kurt D. Apthorpe*

Kurt D. Apthorpe, MBA, CNHA, LNHA  
Administrator | NYS Veterans' Home  
4207 State Highway 220  
Oxford, NY 13830