



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 11, 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-six residents have tested positive since testing started, and thirty-eight employees have tested positive or presumptive positive since testing became readily available. We expect to conduct two more rounds of resident testing next week, on Monday the 14th and again on Friday the 18th. Testing of all staff will continue at least once every 3-7 days.

The increased precautions on every Neighborhood, requiring residents to remain in their rooms and wearing masks when interacting with staff, will continue until December 21st (except for the COVID Quarantine Area). The new positive tests have also resulted in the postponement of Auditorium visits. We anticipate these visits starting again on Monday, December 28. Visitations are set by when the virus test results are reported rather than the test or exposure dates used to determine the quarantine periods.

Window and virtual (Facetime, Duo, etc.) visits continue but must be done from the resident's room during this current upgraded quarantine situation. On December 21st, residents on Apple and Maple will be able to resume window visits downstairs.

New York State Department of Health has notified us that we should anticipate the COVID-19 vaccine to be arriving as soon as approval is given by CDC and New York State. CVS Pharmacy has been chosen to give the vaccines to residents and staff, and they also let us know that they plan to be coming here on January 5th and again on January 27th to administer the two doses required. The vaccine shot is not required and consent forms will need to be signed before the shots can be given. Your Social Worker, Nurse or Medical Provider will be contacting you personally or by phone to discuss the forms and getting your consent. We are still learning more about how the vaccination process will work and will provide additional information as soon as we have it.

In past, families have often been very generous about bringing in food to celebrate the holidays. We have been discouraging this due to our quarantine measures, but if you would still like to do something for the Home's residents and staff, please consider a donation to our Volunteer Guild. You can make a check payable to the NYS Veterans Home at Oxford and

indicate a note that it is for the Volunteer Guild. Your generosity during these difficult times will be welcomed and greatly appreciated.

Let us know if you have any questions or concerns.

Stay well,

Kurt D. Apthorpe

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