



Department of Health

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Executive Deputy Commissioner

December 18, 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 continues to be our top priority. We receive guidance from federal and state government agencies and the departments that oversee nursing homes. The Infection Prevention and Control Committee continues to meet regularly to review new guidance and work closely with the county, regional, and state health department contacts.

A total of twenty-nine residents have tested positive since testing started, and thirty-nine employees have tested positive or presumptive positive since testing became readily available. We expect to conduct another round of resident testing next week, on Tuesday the 22nd. 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 31st (except for the COVID Quarantine Area). Auditorium visits are tentatively planned to start again on Monday, January 4th.

Window and virtual (Facetime, Duo, etc.) visits continue but must be done from the resident's room during this continued quarantine situation. On December 31st, residents on Apple and Maple will be able to resume window visits downstairs.

We have received additional dates for when the vaccinations will be given by CVS Pharmacy to our residents and staff. The anticipated dates are January 4th and 5th for the first dose and on January 25th and 26th for the second dose. A letter and consent forms explaining the vaccination process will be sent out early next week. Your Social Worker, Nurse or Medical Provider will also be contacting you personally or by phone to discuss the forms and getting your consent.

Let us know if you have any questions or concerns.

Stay well,

Kurt D. Apthorpe

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