



Department of Health

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December 24, 2020

Coronavirus (COVID-19) Update

Dear Resident / Representative:

As we begin the holiday weekend, we want to bring you up to date on the current situation at the Veterans Home. We are grateful to all of our families for your perseverance and strength throughout 2020.

The Veterans Home's efforts continue as we do all we can 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 and act on guidance from the federal and state governments and work closely with health department contacts. Over the past week we have been monitoring the community positivity rates and have been in contact with the NYS Department of Health and the epidemiologists.

Currently, there is one coronavirus positive resident in the facility. A total of ninety-five residents have tested positive since testing started. Also, there have been one hundred thirty-six (136) employees who have now tested positive since testing became readily available.

We are currently conducting facility-wide 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. Further, as we are in the annual influenza season, residents will also be tested for influenza as needed.

Accordingly, the residential units are on quarantine with a higher level of precautions. These precautions include requiring residents to remain on the unit, and in their rooms whenever possible. In addition, face-to-face visits continue to be paused. As we get closer to the date for resuming face-to-face visits, you will be notified.

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.

We recognize that Christmas may look and feel different this year as we continue to endure this unprecedented public health event. Please know how honored we are to care for your loved one. With the vaccine at our doorstep, we hope that we are now a day closer to returning to normal.

We wish all our residents, families and friends who celebrate Christmas much happiness and hope. Wishing everyone good health and joy and may your life be filled with warmth and good cheer throughout the New Year.

Please know we remain available to assist you in any way.

Sincerely,

Nancy Baa-Danso

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