



## Department of Health

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Executive Deputy Commissioner

December 24, 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 thirty residents have tested positive since testing started. One of the residents, who recently tested positive with the virus, has recovered. Forty-one 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 29<sup>th</sup>. Testing of all staff will continue at least once every 3-7 days.

The increased precautions on every Neighborhood will continue until December 31<sup>st</sup> (except for the COVID Quarantine Area). Auditorium visits are tentatively planned to start again on Friday, January 8<sup>th</sup>.

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

We have sent out a letter and consent forms explaining the vaccination process. 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 also considering a Zoom call for you to ask questions of Dr. Ketzak, Medical Director, about the vaccination process. Please let your Social Worker know if you would like to participate in a call.

Let your Social Worker know if you have any questions or concerns.

Stay well,

*Kurt D. Apthorpe*

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