



## Department of Health

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Executive Deputy Commissioner

December 31, 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-six residents have tested positive since testing started. This past week two more residents have recovered, one resident died at the Home. While we celebrate the recoveries, we mourn the loss of life. When this pandemic ends, we plan to take time to celebrate the lives of those who passed during this pandemic.

Forty-eight employees have tested positive or presumptive positive since testing became readily available. Testing of all staff has been increased and will be done at least twice a week.

Residents have been tested again today (all results are back from earlier in the week), and will continue to be tested twice a week. If a resident tests positive, we will notify the resident and/or their representative immediately and then send out a notice to everyone else within 24 hours.

Residents continue to be asked to stay in their room with the door closed as much as possible. The increased precautions on every Neighborhood will continue until January 13<sup>th</sup> (The COVID Quarantine Area maintains with constant precautions). Auditorium visits are tentatively planned to start again on Saturday, January 15<sup>th</sup>. Residents on Apple and Maple will be able to resume window visits downstairs on January 13<sup>th</sup>.

The first round of vaccinations will start on Monday, January 4<sup>th</sup>. The CVS Pharmacy staff will administer the vaccine to those who have completed the consent forms. The Home's medical and nursing staff will also be here to monitor the process. Let your Social Worker know if you have any questions or concerns.

May the new year bring you good health, joy, and happiness.

Stay well,

*Kurt D. Apthorpe*

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