



Department of Health

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Executive Deputy Commissioner

January 8, 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-seven residents have tested positive since testing started. Resident testing will continue twice a week.

Fifty-one 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.

The rapid Point-Of-Care (POC) tests are now available and will be used to supplement our current testing regimen. This means when there is a positive test result, we will determine who may be exposed and conduct a rapid POC test at that time. This may mean residents and/or staff will be tested more often, depending on the need to conduct a rapid test.

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 15th (The COVID Quarantine Area maintains constant precautions). Auditorium visits are tentatively planned to start again on January 22nd. Residents on Apple and Maple will be able to resume window visits downstairs on January 15th.

The next round of COVID-19 vaccinations will start on Monday, January 25th. This will be done over two days. Any resident, who did not receive their first shot already, will be able to get it then.

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

Stay well,

Kurt D. Apthorpe

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