



## Department of Health

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Executive Deputy Commissioner

January 15, 2021

### **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. We were recently inspected by the New York State Department of Health as part of their efforts to ensure compliance with State and federal infection control practices in nursing homes. The Home received no deficiencies and remains in the top tier of nursing homes in meeting these standards of care.

A total of thirty-eight residents have tested positive since testing started. Resident molecular (PCR) laboratory testing will continue twice a week and more often as needed. We will also deploy rapid antigen tests on-site to conduct targeted testing. The use of the rapid test will aid us in identifying potential new positive cases and enable us to cohort residents much quicker to prevent the spread of the virus.

Fifty-two employees have tested positive or presumptive positive since testing became readily available. Testing of all staff has been increased and staff are expected to test more often depending on the number of days they work each week. The increase in testing frequency will continue while new cases are occurring. We will also use the rapid tests as determined by exposure and tracing of new cases.

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 23<sup>rd</sup> (The COVID Quarantine Area maintains constant precautions). Residents on Apple and Maple will be able to resume window visits downstairs on January 23<sup>rd</sup>. Auditorium visits are tentatively planned to start again on January 29<sup>th</sup>.

The next round of COVID-19 vaccinations will be held on Monday, January 25<sup>th</sup> and Tuesday, January 26<sup>th</sup>. We will be required to submit another set of the consent forms that were submitted for the first shot. The Social Workers are coordinating the effort to complete and collect these forms. Let your Social Worker know if you have any questions or concerns.

Stay well,

*Kurt D. Apthorpe*

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