



Department of Health

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Executive Deputy Commissioner

February 5, 2021

Coronavirus (COVID-19) Update

Dear Resident / Representative:

Happy 2021!! With this letter, we are hopeful that it brings good tidings of a “normal” future for all of us very soon. We also hope that you are dug out from the 20-plus inches of snow we had earlier this week. Here at the Veterans Home things are as well as can be, and although we know that we have several more weeks of winter left, we are all anxiously looking forward to the Spring.

As you know, we have provided the COVID-19 vaccines to residents and staff on December 21st, January 11th and February 1st. Patronage was good on both fronts. We continue to have the occasional resident and staff test positive for the coronavirus and report that virtually all the COVID-19 positive residents and staff are asymptomatic. Currently, there are seven (7) COVID-19 positive residents in the facility. A total of one-hundred eighteen residents have tested positive since testing started. Also, there are currently six (6) positive employees and one hundred fifty-eight in total have tested positive since testing became readily available. All current positive cases are asymptomatic, and staff are under quarantine away from the facility.

We have heard from several family members who have expressed concerns about unvaccinated residents and staff. Please note that the COVID-19 vaccine is voluntary, and neither the DOH nor CDC have yet provided guidance on cohorting residents, or staff assignments post vaccination.

What both agencies have emphasized, and which we continue to practice, is sound infection control practices. This is the only tried and true method we know of to prevent and reduce the spread of the COVID-19 virus. These methods include the use of N95 masks, face masks, and goggles, handwashing, use of hand sanitizers, the wearing of gowns and gloves as necessary and social distancing.

As per DOH requirements, we are testing residents and staff a minimum of twice a week. The Infection Control and Environmental Services staff continue to provide a clean and safe environment for all the inhabitants and staff of the Home. We also have adequate PPEs to provide care to our residents.

As we have throughout this pandemic, we encourage families to communicate with loved ones via virtual methods such as FaceTime, Whats App, etc. Please call ahead and schedule a visit with the Recreation Department at (914) 788-6175 / 6056.

The Pastoral Care Department is available to schedule window visits with family members. These visits take place Tuesdays from 10:00am - 11:30am and 1:00pm - 4:00pm, every other Wednesday from 6:00pm - 8:00pm, Thursdays from 1:00pm - 2:30pm and one Saturday a month from 10:00am - 11:30am. Please call ahead at (914) 788-6180 to schedule a visit.

The Nursing Supervisors are available to provide information about your loved one in the event you cannot reach unit staff. The Nursing Supervisors can be reached at (914) 987-9056 or (914) 987-9057.

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