



## Department of Health

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Executive Deputy Commissioner

February 5, 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. The Infection Prevention and Control Committee continues to meet regularly to review new federal and state guidance and work closely with the county, regional, and state health department contacts. Our approach has always been to test for the virus as soon as testing was available, test as often as we are able, and then share our results and subsequent actions with you.

A total of forty-four residents have tested positive since testing started. Resident molecular (PCR) laboratory testing continues and will be combined with rapid antigen testing to conduct at least two times weekly testing and more for targeted testing. Starting this week, all of the resident PCR tests are being sent to Wadsworth Laboratory, located at the New York State Department of Health.

Fifty-four employees have tested positive or presumptive positive since testing became readily available. Testing of all staff continues at an increased level. Staff are expected to test more often depending on the number of days they work each week. We are also using 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 February 14<sup>th</sup> (The COVID Quarantine Area maintains constant precautions). Residents on Apple will be able to resume window visits downstairs on February 14<sup>th</sup>. Auditorium visits are tentatively planned to start again on February 17<sup>th</sup>.

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

Stay well,

*Kurt D. Apthorpe*

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