



Department of Health

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Executive Deputy Commissioner

February 19, 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.

A total of forty-five residents have tested positive since testing started. Resident molecular (PCR) laboratory testing continues and combined with rapid antigen testing to conduct at least two times weekly testing and more for targeted testing.

Fifty-five 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 27th (The COVID Quarantine Area maintains constant precautions). Residents on Apple will be able to resume window visits downstairs on February 27th. Auditorium visits are tentatively planned to start again on March 1st.

We have completed three COVID-19 vaccination clinics. The Veterans' Home's vaccination rates for both residents and staff are above state averages. The below chart represents the current vaccinated percentages for the Home, and Statewide, the Southern Tier and Chenango County from the State's Vaccine Tracker at ny.gov/vaccinetracker.

All Nursing Homes	% of Residents Vaccinated	% of Staff Vaccinated
Statewide	72%	49%
Southern Tier Region	83%	48%
Chenango County	88%	49%
Oxford Veterans' Home	94%	52%

An invitation will be sent out early next week announcing a Zoom call to discuss current activities including the vaccination program at which time we will respond to your questions.

Stay well,

Kurt D. Apthorpe

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