



## Department of Health

**ANDREW M. CUOMO**  
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**HOWARD A. ZUCKER, M.D., J.D.**  
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**LISA J. PINO, M.A., J.D.**  
Executive Deputy Commissioner

February 26, 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-six 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-six staff 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.

We are advocating for residents to be able to be out of their rooms with the Department of Health, but this is still a requirement when there is a positive case in the Home. 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 March 11<sup>th</sup> (The COVID Quarantine Area maintains constant precautions). Residents on Apple will be able to resume window visits downstairs on March 11<sup>th</sup>. Inside visits are tentatively planned to start again on March 14<sup>th</sup>.

The Department of Health will be providing additional vaccines to Chenango County Public Health for our use to continue vaccinating residents and staff. We expect this to be available starting soon.

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

Stay well,

*Kurt D. Apthorpe*

Kurt D. Apthorpe, MBA, CNHA, LNHA  
Administrator | NYS Veterans' Home  
4207 State Highway 220  
Oxford, NY 13830