



Department of Health

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Executive Deputy Commissioner

March 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.

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-seven 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.

Residents continue to be asked to stay in their room with the door closed as much as possible. The increased precautions on Oak and Apple Neighborhoods will continue until March 11th and on Hawthorn until March 18th (The COVID Quarantine Area maintains constant precautions). Residents on Apple will be able to resume window visits downstairs on March 11th. Inside visits are tentatively planned to start again on March 20th.

Vaccines are being obtained from Chenango County and our staff will be vaccinating any resident or staff who would like to be vaccinated now.

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

Stay well,

Kurt D. Apthorpe

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