



Department of Health

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Executive Deputy Commissioner

March 12, 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-eight 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.

Increased precautions on Hawthorn Neighborhood continue until March 18th (The Admission Area and the COVID Quarantine Area maintain constant precautions). Inside visits are scheduled to start again on March 20th. We are aware of recent federal government changes to nursing home visitation recommendations but there are differences with the New York State Department of Health guidelines for visitations and we are required to follow the most restrictive version. As these guidelines change and effect our procedures, we will update everyone.

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

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

Stay well,

Kurt D. Apthorpe

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