



Department of Health

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Executive Deputy Commissioner

March 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.

We continue to test staff at least twice weekly in order to identify any new cases as soon as possible. This past week we have had employees test positive, and sixty-two staff have tested positive or presumptive positive since testing became readily available.

Residents residing in the Admission Area and the COVID Quarantine Area and residents with COVID or other specifically identified infection control precautions must maintain increased precautions and also limited visitation.

Visits are now allowed based on the New York State Department of Health updated Health Advisory. Visits must be scheduled through the Social Worker at least 72 hours prior and must adhere to all infection control standards. The number of visitors allowed in the Home is required to be limited to the number that the Home can safely monitor, and visitors must follow all infection control guidelines at all times. Screening of visitors for symptoms and exposures will continue. COVID-19 testing will be offered and encouraged but not required of visitors. An updated Visitation Plan with more instructions will be sent out soon.

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

Stay well,

Kurt D. Apthorpe

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