



## Department of Health

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Executive Deputy Commissioner

April 2, 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 Isolation Area and residents with other specifically identified infection control precautions must maintain increased precautions and also limited visitation. The increased, strict precautions (residents remaining in their room) that resulted from the recent positive cases will end for all neighborhoods on April 7<sup>th</sup>.

Rules for furloughs have changed, specifically that we will no longer require residents to have a negative test upon return. COVID-19 testing will be offered and encouraged but not required, and quarantining will still be required upon return.

With the weather getting warmer, we will be setting up outside areas for person-to-person visits soon.

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

Sincerely,

*Noah P. Davis*

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