



Department of Health

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LISA J. PINO, M.A., J.D.
Executive Deputy Commissioner

April 9, 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. 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.

Please continue to contact the Home at least 72 hours prior to visiting so we can ensure staff are able to support the visit. We are working on processes that will allow more visits, especially outside and in other areas of the Home. We plan to announce additional changes next week, but it is important that everyone still follow the infection control principles that were distributed in our Visitor Fact Sheet recently. These principles include wearing a face covering, maintaining 6 feet of distance, and following proper hand hygiene by using hand sanitizer or washing hands often.

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

Sincerely,

Kurt D. Apthorpe

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