



Department of Health

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

April 23, 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 is 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-three staff have tested positive or presumptive positive since testing became readily available.

Outbreak testing determined that there was only one positive case last week, but the exposure effected all Neighborhoods and strict precautions will continue until April 29th. General visitation will be allowed as of that date. All visits (general or compassionate care) must be scheduled at least 72 hours prior to visiting so we can ensure staff are able to support the visit. Strict infection control practices must continue to be maintained during visits.

The Veterans Home is continuing to administer the vaccine to residents and staff. If any resident would like to receive the vaccine, please notify your Social Worker or Nurse. The Social Worker will be in touch to assist with coordinating the consent process and the vaccination appointment. In addition, the Social Workers will be contacting those who have declined the vaccine so that a State-required form can be completed for our records.

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