



Department of Health

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Executive Deputy Commissioner

April 30, 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-six staff have tested positive or presumptive positive since testing became readily available.

The additional positive cases this week were all unrelated. The strict quarantine in place for Pine and Oak Neighborhoods will continue until May 11th. Compassionate visits are allowed on all neighborhoods but 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.

New York State has not yet issued new guidance in response to the new federal government rules that open up dining and activity programs and reduce mask mandates for vaccinated residents. We will notify everyone as soon as we are allowed to proceed with any changes.

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

Sincerely,

Kurt D. Apthorpe

Kurt D. Apthorpe
Administrator
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